

VOTES FOR WOMEN

VOL. V. (New Series), No. 216.

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LIBERALISM—PAST AND PRESENT.



"A prison is becoming, under the rule of the present Government, a temple of honour."—Mr. Gladstone, censuring the Conservative Government for its treatment of Irish political prisoners. In the House of Commons, March 1, 1889.

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To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK.

Once more the courageous action of the militant Suffragists in prison has won a victory for the cause and compelled the Government to yield to a moral and spiritual force that no physical power, no brutality of treatment, could overcome. In our last issue we described the gallant struggle carried on by the women in Aylesbury Prison, who, when refused the treatment of political offenders, started the hunger strike as a protest, and were subjected to the shameful torture of forcible feeding. Nearly a hundred women in Holloway Gaol did the same, and there, too, in a number of cases, this dangerous and

unpardonable process was authorised by the Home Office in the vain hope of breaking down the resolution of the women. When this was found to be impossible, Mr. McKenna, showing himself no more statesmanlike in defeat than he had proved himself to be during the conflict of wills, grudgingly conceded to all the Suffragists in prison the minimum of the privileges allowed under Rule 243A.

Our admiration for the brave women who, at the Full Political Recognition.

risk of their lives, have thus again forced to the front the whole question of prison treatment, is unbounded. In deciding to accept the Home Secretary's interpretation of the Rule—which is worded so ambiguously that it can be made to mean almost anything—they do not relinquish their claim to the full rights of political offenders; and the very least the authorities can do is to provide them with newspapers and writing materials, bare necessities to offenders of this class. In a second article on the political treatment of prisoners, which we print this week, Professor Sigerson points out that Great Britain in this respect lags behind such Continental countries as France and Austria. The Suffragists now in prison are fighting not only for their own political recognition, but for the status of British political offenders in general, men and women alike. In this connection it is interesting to note that Mr. Lansbury intends shortly to bring in a Bill, providing that any prisoner convicted of a political offence shall be treated as a misdemeanant of the first division.

Whose "Tissue of Falsehood"?

All through the militant campaign of the last six years the unwavering purpose of the women has stood out in sharp contrast to the pusillanimous

evasions of the Home Secretary when charged with brutality towards Suffragist prisoners. In this respect Mr. McKenna has proved himself a fit successor to Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Winston Churchill. Unable to see in the protest of voteless women against continued disfranchisement anything more than the "moral turpitude" which he attributed to their motives in the House of Commons only last week, Mr. McKenna has contrived further to misinterpret the charges brought by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst against his predecessor at the Home Office in 1909-10, and in his answer to Sir Charles Henry in the House last Monday, denounced her letter to the Press on April 13 as "a tissue of falsehood." This accusation comes with little weight from a Minister whose official repudiation, a few weeks ago, of the known facts concerning the prison treatment of Mrs. Pankhurst, showed small knowledge or appreciation of what really happened. Since his rendering of Miss Pankhurst's words may have misled the public as to her real meaning, we are glad to insert on another page her reiteration of the grim charges that have been brought by Suffragists, time after time, against the Home Office, charges which have never been fairly met or disproved.

Grim Charges.

Women Suffragists, as Miss Sylvia Pankhurst points out in her letter, were, in the autumn and winter of 1909, handcuffed, imprisoned in punishment cells unfit for human habitation, forcibly fed with every accompaniment of harshness and cruelty. More recently, setting aside for the moment the hunger strike and forcible feeding of this month, we have had the case of Mr. William Ball, to which we alluded last week in our note upon the ques-

tionable way in which the so-called investigation into his treatment had been conducted. Mr. William Ball, a working-man and trade-unionist, in his chivalrous championship of the cause of Woman Suffrage, broke two panes of glass at the Home Office on December 21 last. For this he was sentenced to two months' hard labour; and when he very properly protested against being treated as a criminal offender and started the hunger strike, he was fed by force for five and a half weeks, a process that very naturally undermined his health and greatly impaired his nervous system, though he had gone to prison a sound and healthy man in mind and body. The story of the callous letter from the Governor of Pentonville Prison, informing his wife, who knew nothing of all this, that her husband was about to be certified as a pauper lunatic, is well known, and it touches the high-water mark of official brutality. But the fact that Mrs. Ball was allowed to secure the unconditional release of her husband from Colney Hatch Asylum, the next day, is sufficient evidence that, though in a serious state of health owing to the treatment meted out to him, his mental condition was not such as was described in the Governor's letter. We are, indeed, glad to be able to announce that Mr. Ball, but for some slight physical weakness, is now restored to his usual health.

Demand for an Enquiry.

To us it appears that the time has come for a public enquiry into the whole matter of the prison treatment of Suffragists. The Women's Social and Political Union have no reason to fear such an enquiry. In demanding it they know full well what an indictment of Liberal administration would be furnished, what defects of prison regulations, what a record of Home Office incapacity and Home Office inexactitudes! Nor would the public be averse to this investigation. During the last week more than one forcible manifesto has appeared in the advertisement columns of our newspapers, calling upon British citizens to realise that the treatment of women political offenders as criminals involves the honour of the Empire and the liberty of the subject, as well as the suffering of women. One of these manifestoes is unsigned; another appears over the signature of "A British Anti-Suffragist"; a third is in the form of a letter by that unfaltering champion of justice, Mr. Henry W. Nevinnson. They are all signs of a growing feeling of exasperation that no Government should ignore. One result of an enquiry would inevitably be to help forward the cause of prison reform generally, a cause that is dear to the heart of every Suffragist. But would the Government be able to face it as unflinchingly as the Women's Social and Political Union?

A Militant Primate.

"We are all militant now!" Such is in effect the cry of men at the present time, and especially of those who are fighting in what they regard as the cause of liberty against Home Rule for Ireland. The Unionist leaders, as we have repeatedly shown by extracts from their very militant utterances, are certainly keeping the Suffragettes in countenance. Indeed, by the violence of their counsel they leave the militant women far behind. The latest to preach the gospel of militant methods is no less a person than the Lord Primate of Ireland himself. At the Special General Synod of the Church of Ireland, summoned to consider Home Rule, the Lord Primate applauded the expressed resolve of Ulster men to resist Home Rule by every means, whether lawful or unlawful. He said he had lived among them and had seen their grim determination at this crisis in their history, and he solemnly declared their determination not to be driven out from under the Union Jack. They were, he said, long past the stage of bluster and brag, and had reached the stage of self-sacrifice unto death. No more militant utterance could well be imagined. It was received by the Churchmen present with vociferous applause. It is interesting to militant Suffragists in Ireland and elsewhere to know that militancy has the sanction and warm approval of the Lord Primate.

"The Favourable Moment."

Under this heading the *Westminster Gazette*, in a recent leading article, rebuked as follows those reactionaries who do not see the urgency of Home Rule:—

But why, ask some people, not leave well alone? Ireland turbulent did not deserve Home Rule, and Ireland quiet does not need Home Rule. The Home Ruler on these lines must always be wrong. He agitates, and it is a reason for saying "no," he ceases from agitation, and again it is a reason for saying "no."

The leader goes on to scoff at the argument that Ireland is a spoilt child that already has all it wants:—

But still the child persists and comes again and again with his demand for something of his own. If the Englishman, than whom no kind of man in the whole world is more persistent in getting his own way, could only for a moment put himself in the position of the Irishman, he would begin to see a little more sense in this childishness than he is apt to suppose.

How much easier is it to be a Liberal newspaper when the discourse is of Home Rule for men, and not of Votes for Women!

"A Week of Bewildering Variety."

The Parliamentary correspondent of the *Daily News* prefaced his remarks last Monday with the

words, "A week of bewildering variety opens to-day at Westminster," and proceeded to name, as business to be dealt with this week, Bills dealing with India, the Welsh Church, and Education, besides the Postmaster-General's annual statement. The Liberal mind may well be bewildered! The administration of a subject race containing millions of women, religious liberty of thought in Wales, the education of the nation's children, the salaries of women clerks in the Post Office—a week of this sort of thing is enough to make the head whirl of any statesman who tries to tackle it from the man's point of view alone. And yet, in all this "bewildering variety," not a corner is found for the one measure that would simplify them all, a Government measure to give women the power to help in dealing with legislation so deeply affecting their interests. Mr. Lloyd George, when questioned in the House as to details of the proposal to reform the franchise laws, and the probable date of those proposals, "can add nothing to the statement made by the Prime Minister on November 8 last." Bewildering variety indeed! A week of plain justice would be good enough for women.

Heroism That Knows No Sex.

Much correspondence has appeared in the Press, apparently with the intention of establishing some connection between the terrible tragedy of the Titanic and the cause of Woman Suffrage. Our leader deals with this subject at length, and we have only space here in which to express our profound sympathy with the homes that have been made desolate by the disaster, and our deep sense of admiration for those men and women who so unhesitatingly gave their lives for others. Heroism and self-sacrifice know no distinction of sex, as can be seen in the stories of survivors that we quote elsewhere. It is with very great thankfulness that we note among the list of those saved the names of Mrs. Bowerman Chibnall and her daughter, Miss Elsie Bowerman, two members of the St. Leonard's Women's Social and Political Union, and very enthusiastic workers in the cause. Our gladness at their happy escape has been all the greater since their names first appeared among the list of the missing.

Mr. W. T. Stead.

We wish to pay our tribute to the memory of Mr. W. T. Stead, who died in the wreck of the Titanic. Mr. Stead was always throughout his life the champion of the rights of women, and believed in their human, social, and political equality with men. In co-operation with Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy he took the initiative in a most effective Woman Suffrage revival at the beginning of the present century. When Annie Kenney, in 1906, founded a branch of the Women's Social and Political Union in London, Mr. Stead was most generous with help and advice, and was one of those who most encouraged her in her mission. He was quick to understand the great significance of her coming to London, and in one of his admirable character-sketches in the *Review of Reviews* he hailed her as a modern Joan of Arc.

"Women's Sphere..."

It is characteristic of our highly intelligent Liberal Government that while carefully providing an abundance, and, as some people argue, a superabundance, of Dreadnoughts, they have allowed other countries to gain an immeasurable superiority in the matter of aircraft for use in time of war. This may be the result simply of stupidity and fossilism, but what are we to say of the manner in which they try to excuse their neglect! Say the Government in the recently issued Memorandum on Naval and Military Aviation: "There are admittedly advantages in a policy of postponing the development of aeroplanes for military and naval purposes, and of leaving pioneer work to private enterprise and foreign nations." The italics are ours. This contemptible plan of picking other people's brains, and of contributing nothing to the risks and costs of what is (quite apart from its connection with warfare) a great new departure in human activity, fills women, at any rate, with shame. In the days when Britain's fame was established men must surely have been free from the degeneracy implied in the use of words such as we have quoted. Even if men had, as some of them untruly assert, built up the nation in the past, women's help is now urgently needed to maintain it in its original grandeur. It is of interest in this connection to notice that the most vigorous and public spirited of the associations engaged in promoting aviation is the Women's Aerial League.

The Progress of Women.

An interesting appointment of a woman at Melbourne, where Miss Nancy Isaacs has been appointed legal associate to her father, Mr. Justice Isaacs, in the Commonwealth High Court, once more marks the progress of women in a country where women have votes. The straggling manner in which the march of progress goes its leisurely way is shown in the recent appointment at Zurich of the first woman factory inspector in Switzerland. In this country we have had women factory inspectors since the early nineties. Yet Switzerland romped ahead of us in another direction, only the other day, by giving a woman the post of Governor of a prison, a vital reform that still awaits fulfilment in Great Britain. The conciliatory powers of women have just been recognised

in Belgium, where they voted for the first time, last week, in the election of the *Prud'hommes* Councils, a municipal body that exists for the purpose of settling disputes between employers and employed.

This Week's Paper.

Want of space compels us to hold over much matter of interest this week. Crowded and successful meetings were held in the Steinway Hall and the London Pavilion which we are unable to report, though we hope to publish next week the admirable speech made by the Rev. F. M. Green. In this week's paper we give a full report of Dr. L. Garrett Anderson's speech on "Prisoners of War" delivered at the Steinway Hall; and we draw special attention to Professor Sigerson's second article on the treatment of political offenders, and to an appreciation of Mr. Zangwill's play, "The Next Religion," over the signature "H. W. N." Our readers will be specially glad to have the full account of the proceedings in the Divisional Court last Tuesday, when Mrs. Pethick Lawrence made her application with reference to the quashing of her conviction in December last. Other matter of interest will be found in the stories by released prisoners of the recent Hunger Strike.

THE CONSPIRACY TRIAL.

As we go to press information reaches us that Mr. Justice Coleridge, at the Central Criminal Court, has refused an application to postpone the trial of Mrs. Pankhurst and Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence until next Sessions. The application was made on the ground of Mrs. Pankhurst's health, which has seriously hampered her in the preparation of her defence, and its refusal is therefore greatly to be regretted. As matters stand, the trial will probably take place next week. Our readers may like to know that we have made arrangements for a special report of the proceedings, which will be given in full in VOTES FOR WOMEN.

TO D. R.

(In the Exercise Yard, March, 1912.)

Beyond the bars I see her move,
A mystery of blue and green,
As though across the prison yard
The Spirit of the Spring had been;
And when she lifts her hands to press
The happy sunshine of her hair,
From the grey ground the pigeons rise
And rustle upwards through the air,
As though her two hands held a key
To set imprisoned spirits free.

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PRISONERS OF WAR.

By Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson.

A Speech at Steinway Hall, April 18, 1912.

It seems to me that in these days we can think of little except our comrades in prison. I was released from Holloway a fortnight ago. As you have been told, the Home Office found that I might like to spend Easter with my family, and so I was set free several days before the termination of my sentence. There were a large number of other women in prison with me who might have liked to spend Easter with their families, but the concession was not extended to them. There was one woman whose case I would like to mention, because I think her need for remission of sentence was much more obvious than mine. She was a working milliner, to whom, as you may imagine, it was a very great sacrifice to give up her time at this very busy period of the year. The damage which she had done was assessed at 3s. The damage which I did in breaking Mr. Hobhouse's window was put at 30s. She had two months' hard labour and I had six weeks, which was cut down to one month.

Those of us who know anything about the lives of women (and most Suffragists do) are familiar with the reasons why women need the vote. They are pretty obvious in everyday life, but I think those of us who have been to Holloway will agree that the reasons for being a Suffragist are never more obvious than they are in prison. In prison one is brought close against the hard, sad facts of women's lives, and the need for altering the status of women is so obvious that I do not think the dullest could fail to see it; in fact, I came to the conclusion that any Anti-Suffragist, after spending a couple of days in Holloway, would become a Suffragist. I am inclined to think that if a constitutional Suffragist found her way there, by accident, even she might turn into a Suffragette. What we are out to do, whether we are in prison or out of prison, is to alter the status of women. It is not the vote in itself which we want or a certain number of votes. We care about the vote because it is the symbol of equality. What we want is to make men and women understand that a woman is a human being worth as much as any other human being. If women were not so cheap, if their status were raised, and if they were not crushed down by the artificial difficulties of their lives, there would be very many fewer prisoners taken backwards and forwards in Black Marias to Holloway and other women's prisons. The majority of women in Holloway are sentenced for petty theft or prostitution; offences for which poverty and status are largely responsible. I think the thing which struck me most about the ordinary prisoners was that they looked very much like the women outside. They are put into a hideous and slovenly dress, which strikes one as a curious method of reformation, as it must make self-respect hard; yet, when you forget the dress and look at their faces, I think the main impression is that they are just very ordinary women. Some of them are sweet looking, a good many of them are pretty, most of them ill; and a few of them look bad. Suffragettes go to prison as a move in the fight to life the burden from women's lives; the other prisoners go because this burden has been too great for them. In this fight it is our good fortune to be prisoners of war, when by an accident of fortune we might easily have been victims instead. We realised that we were fellow-women and fellow-prisoners, and the bond between us was close. Perhaps that is one reason why the Government finds it difficult to decide whether Suffragists are common criminals or political offenders!

In last week's paper there was an interesting article by Professor Sigerson, a member of the Royal Commission on Prisons in 1884. In a clearly reasoned statement he shows that the difference between common criminals and political offenders has been recognised in English law for a long time, and he gives a number of examples to show that this has been the case, and he draws certain conclusions. When the International Conference on Prisons met in London in 1872, a resolution was proposed, I think by the Italian representative, and it was carried unanimously. Therefore, although England seems to lag behind now, in 1872 it was prepared to support a resolution which the other nationalities thought was right, and this resolution was that "persons guilty of offences, not implying any great moral perversity, should be kept in simple detention, apart from common criminals." Again and again, men who have committed offences for political motives have received special treatment and recognition as political offenders. At the present moment our women, in solitude, full of the feeling of helplessness which one has in prison, are standing up against mental and physical torture in order that they, for the honour of their cause, may win recognition as

political offenders. They are striking for an idea, not in order to escape their punishment, which they are prepared to accept. Surely, there can be no doubt in anyone's mind as to which category (common criminals or political offenders) Suffragists belong. A common criminal commits his or her offence for personal motives. He may be wrong in his calculations, just as a reformer may make a mistake in judgment; but he believes that the act which he is committing is going to give him something, to gain him some personal advantage. He hopes to escape punishment, and he does not mind how much the community suffers so long as he gains his own end. The exact reverse is the case when a reformer commits an offence. He puts away all thought of self-interest. Probably every Suffragist who has gone to prison has sacrificed a very great deal; in fact, I cannot imagine anyone going to prison and not sacrificing considerably. They sacrifice time, for a more appalling waste of time than sitting in a prison cell, in a bad atmosphere, deprived of liberty, occupation, and interest, I cannot imagine. Women sacrifice a great deal professionally and socially. However, they are glad and proud to do it. I ask you why? Because the reformers' vision is before them, and guides them by self-sacrifice to help to put the world on a higher plane. They see that unless the womanhood of the country is given a fair chance of developing, unless artificial fetters on women are thrown off, the vitality of the nation is cramped, and there is an incalculable waste of energy in the world.

More than this I hardly dare to say about the women now in prison. One can admire people calmly if they are to one a blur and an abstraction; one can speak of their courage, their devotion, and their heroism; but if they are friends and comrades whom you have left in danger before their time of suffering began, it is quite impossible to say anything more than just God-speed to them.

MILITANT WOMAN IN THREE PLAYS.

In "Race Suicide," a one-act trifle by Mr. H. Hamilton Fyfe, she is a refreshing piece of common-sense and kindness, set in a rather selfish, rather unpractical, but very human provincial circle. Married slightly by one or two faults of taste, this little satire upon modern reform movements is more than redeemed by its wit and humour, and by the creation of Mrs. Brown, the one person in the play who, under the guise of an innocence that is a little overdone, always applies a practical test to every theory advanced by her husband, the Squire, and the Vicar, and is always right. The piece, produced with two others by the Pioneer Players on Sunday night, aroused a good deal of laughter, and deservedly so.

The woman in "The Surprise of His Life," or at least the woman who sets the tone of the play, is a typical militant Suffragist—gentle, submissive, even timid, until the occasion arises for self-assertion, when she shows a spirit and a courage that leaves her family dumb, as families are left when they discover that the relative they have lived with all their lives has been a complete stranger to them all the while. The conventional outlook of Mr. Jenkins, the grocer, who thinks that everything will be put right if he bribes the graceless "Alf" to marry his daughter and "make an honest woman of her"; and of Alf himself, who accepts the bribe and boasts that the girl will come "crawling" to him, receives a rude shock when Emily announces that he can't make her what he isn't himself, and that she would sooner face life alone with her child. She is a typical Suffragette, even to the point of being said to be "misled" by a certain Mrs. Wilson, who is spoken of as a Suffragist leader. So is Sally, admirably played last Sunday by Miss Auril Lee, who also throws over Alf when she finds he has done his best to ruin another girl. The new spirit among women is rampant in Miss Jess Dorynne's latest play.

A different sort of militant woman is sketched in Christopher St. John's play of "Macarena." This was by far the most serious of the three productions, and is founded upon an incident in the life of the famous Polish nun, Irena Macarena, who endured flogging and degradation, and faced death with her nuns, rather than abjure the Catholic faith and allow Poland to become Russianised. The play is a vivid presentation of the kind of courage in which women excel when a principle is at stake, and reaches a high level when neither the apostate Archbishop nor the priest can make Sister Irena abjure her faith, even to stop the torture of her nuns in prison. Perhaps many of the points would go home more directly to militant Suffragists than to other people; but the purpose of the play, its psychology, and its understanding of the heroic spirit, should appeal to all human persons. "Macarena" is an achievement, and it ought to be produced again.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £250,000 FUND.

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A Friend...	0 5 0	bury	0 16 0
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Miss Newton...	0 0 8	Miss L. Wilkinson...	0 12 6
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Per Miss Key-Jones		Mrs. F. W. Russell...	0 5 6
and Dr. Waller...		Miss E. E. Pitt...	0 6 3
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Miss C. B. Hale...	1 10 0	Miss E. A. Wright...	0 10 0
Mrs. Alice Dilks...	1 0 0	Miss Nellie Neave...	3 2 6
Mrs. Holden...	0 2 0	Miss Mabel Sennett...	0 13 8
Miss A. Hughes...	3 0 0	Miss A. Surrey...	0 15 0
Miss Ada Broughton...	0 10 0	Miss E. Thirling...	0 3 0
Miss M. D. Griesbach...	0 10 0	Miss E. Postlethwaite...	0 10 3
Miss Ethel Gould...	0 2 6	Mrs. A. M. Muncester...	0 7 0
Miss Jennings...	0 3 0	Miss M. de Vere...	0 17 6
Miss M. E. Ingledew...	0 5 0	Miss M. A. Leitch...	0 18 3
Miss Enid Adams...	0 5 0	Peterhead...	3 6 6
Miss M. Foster...	0 3 0	Miss L. Winfield...	0 6 6
Miss M. P. A. John...	0 5 0	Mrs. Stevens...	0 12 3
Miss Hannah E. Beley...	0 15 0	Mrs. Stevens...	0 1 8
Miss A. Foote...	0 2 0	Mrs. E. Williams...	0 7 0
Miss Kelly...	1 0 0	Mrs. Silvester...	0 7 6
Miss E. Kembal...	0 5 0	Mrs. W. Maack...	1 5 0
Miss Lucy A. Bailey...	0 1 0	Mrs. A. Tebbutt...	14 9
Miss E. L. Andrews...	10 0 0	Miss M. C. Sykes...	0 10 0
Miss M. M. Stanley...	0 1 0	Mrs. L. Hall...	0 9 6
N. B.	0 5 0	Per Misses Crocker	
Miss E. Tremayne...	1 0 0	and Roberts-	
Miss Mary Sutcliffe...	0 2 6	Miss E. Clarke...	0 15 0
Miss K. Taylor...	0 6 0	Miss E. Holgate...	0 7 0
Mrs. Watson...	0 4 6	Miss A. Greenall...	0 5 8
Miss S. E. Outram...	5 0 0	Miss Eames...	1 3 9
Streatham, coll. box...	0 2 11	Miss K. Gillick...	2 0 2
Mrs. Mary Oram...	0 7 6	Miss C. M. Burgis...	0 11 0
Miss Elvira Read...	0 10 0	Miss E. Sharpe...	0 4 0
Mrs. B. C. Whitton...	0 10 0	Miss N. Newton...	1 1 0
Mrs. S. Robinson...	0 10 0	Miss Stansfield...	0 7 6
Mrs. E. Maggs...	0 1 0	Mrs. Truman...	1 0 0
Miss D. Morgan Brown...	1 0 0	Miss Woolhatch...	0 3 0
Miss D. K. Scott...	0 1 0	Mrs. Palmer...	0 10 0
Miss A. M. Scott...	0 1 0	Miss M. Wallis...	0 10 0
Miss Scollan...	0 0 5	Batham and Tooting	
Miss Tomkins...	0 5 0	W.S.P.U.	
Mrs. E. Towler...	1 10 0	Collected	
The Misses Purley...	10 0 0	Miss Gilbert...	0 7 1
"Mary"	0 5 0	Mrs. McCormick...	0 2 6
Mrs. Hollings...	0 5 0	Miss E. Mutch...	0 18 0
Miss Mildred Smith...	0 10 0	Mrs. Spearman...	0 5 0
Mrs. K. C. Leah...	2 8 0	Mrs. Palmer...	0 0 6
Miss Smith...	0 5 0	Mrs. Robinson...	0 2 6
Mrs. Reeder...	0 10 0	Bournemouth W.S.P.U. 11 5 0	
Mrs. Edith Rigby...	0 10 0	Hammermith W.S.P.U.	
Mrs. L. L. Millet...	0 2 6	Miss C. S. Howse...	2 0 0
Miss S. Prunier...	0 2 6	Mrs. Haasleicher...	0 10 0
Miss S. Shanks...	2 0 0	Mrs. Maund...	0 10 0
Miss B. G. McEellan...	0 10 0	Mrs. Armstrong...	0 6 3
Miss Annie Rawlin...	0 5 0	Miss Macoun...	0 4 3
Mrs. and Miss Orans...	0 3 0	Miss Wynne...	0 2 6
S. M.	0 5 0	Miss Anderson...	0 4 6
Miss A. E. Rhind...	0 10 0	Hamstead W.S.P.U. (add.)	
Miss F. C. Tristram...	0 10 0	Miss Janet Vibert...	7 0 0
Miss M. M. Walton...	0 7 6	Miss Mary B.	1 5 0
Miss A. A. Robson...	0 2 0	Knebworth W.S.P.U. 7 1 0	
Miss M. Fryer...	0 2 0	Pinner W.S.P.U.	
"One now in retire-		Anon.	0 5 0
ment" (per Mrs.		Miss Wadson...	2 0 0
Archdale)		Mrs. Tettero...	1 0 0
Miss M. Park...	0 10 0	Mrs. Black...	0 10 0
Miss Whitley...	0 1 0	Mrs. Neal...	1 5 0
Miss A. M. Wilson...	0 10 0	Mrs. Varden...	0 5 0
Miss Scott...	0 5 0	Mrs. Heap...	0 12 0
Miss Mabel Peacock...	2 0 0	Miss Waller...	0 5 0
Miss E. M. Staniland...	0 15 0	Miss Lyndon...	0 2 0
Miss M. Lilley...	0 10 0	Miss Lighthorne...	0 5 0
Mrs. A. Sykes...	10 0 0	Miss Lidday...	0 3 0
Miss L. Lilley...	4 14 0	Preston W.S.P.U.	
Miss K. Lilley...	9 0 0	Mrs. Mayor...	0 5 0
Mrs. Tighe...	1 6 9	Mrs. Lawrence...	0 2 6
Mrs. Lilley...	5 0 0	Miss T. Smith...	0 5 0
Per Misses Crocker		Mrs. A. Roberts...	0 1 0
and Roberts-		Mrs. Fawcett...	0 3 7
Mrs. Holgate...	0 10 0	Mrs. A. Tupper...	0 5 0
Miss E. A. Hardy...	1 0 0	Waltham W.S.P.U. 5 14 4	
Mrs. Wether...	0 2 0	West Ham W.S.P.U. 1 15 0	
Mrs. Sakonchansky...	0 2 6	Collections, Tickets, &c.	
Mrs. Wilkinson...	0 3 6	Albert Hall (Mar. 28) 224 1 10	
Miss Woolley...	0 3 6	London 28 2 1	
Miss Truman...	1 0 0	Per Misses Crocker	1 10 2
Mrs. P. E. Shaw...	1 1 0	and Roberts-	0 5 6
Miss Smith...	0 5 0	Per Miss Key-Jones	0 5 6
Collecting Cards-		Total £118,344 18 8	
Mrs. E. H. Hinckley...	0 11 3	Note.—In last week's issue the first nine items only, under the heading	
Miss F. L. Carnegie...	0 10 7	Batham and Tooting W.S.P.U., were sent in by that Union.	
Miss N. Corcoran...	1 2 0		
Miss Julia Green...	1 2 0		
Miss M. G. Houston...	0 12 6		
Miss Clementia Field...	0 6 0		
Miss Lottie E. Gilpin...	0 3 6		
Miss Hilda Baitle...	0 10 0		
Miss M. E. Beale...	0 3 6		
Miss Ada Handley...	0 4 9		
Miss C. E. M. Bour-			
field	0 7 0		
Miss Constance...	0 12 0		
Miss E. V. Adams...	0 14 0		

MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST ANSWERS MR. McKENNA.

"The letter to which my hon. friend refers is a tissue of falsehood."—Mr. McKenna.

In the House of Commons on Monday, April 22, Sir Charles Henry asked the Home Secretary if his attention has been drawn to the charge made by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst that in dozens of cases forcible feeding of Suffragist prisoners have been accompanied by wanton and unnecessary cruelty; that women have been thrown into dark, damp, and unwholesome cells; and that they have been handcuffed, frog-marched, beaten, and bruised; if there is any substance or foundation for these statements; and, if not, if he will take steps to protect the prison authorities and officials from charges of this character?

Mr. McKenna: The letter to which my hon. friend refers is a tissue of falsehood. Every charge of cruelty or unnecessary violence brought against the prison officers in terms sufficiently definite to permit of investigation has been investigated and found to be untrue. Where forcible feeding has been necessary, it has been carried out with as little use of force and as much gentleness as the conduct of the prisoners would permit. No women have been thrown into dark, damp, or unwholesome cells. No woman has been handcuffed, except where that was the only way to prevent her breaking her windows or furniture. No woman has been frog-marched, beaten, or bruised. It is a disgraceful thing that these accusations against subordinate officers of the Prison Service should be repeated after they have been investigated and disproved; but I trust that the public will not attach any weight to charges carefully made in such general terms as to prevent the possibility of legal proceedings being taken against those responsible for the falsehoods.

Mr. Keir Hardie: May I ask the Right Hon. gentleman whether the reply we have just heard applies to London prisons only or to the prisons throughout the country, and whether he is aware that substantial evidence to prove such statements exists, and that one lady prisoner actually obtained damages owing to the great injustice of her treatment referred to in the question?

Mr. McKenna: When, sir? The hon. gentleman has failed to mention the time when the lady was imprisoned.

Mr. Keir Hardie: It was in 1909 or 1910. I have got the information in my pocket. The information is detailed and specific. I think the Right Hon. gentleman received a copy of it.

Mr. McKenna: The case was some time ago, and the lady did not receive damages in respect of any one of the charges mentioned in this particular question. There is no evidence at the present time that there is the slightest ground for any of the charges made in the letter.

Mr. Keir Hardie: May I ask whether the reply refers to the London prisons or to the prisons of the country, and whether, in view of the gravity of the statements now made, a committee will be appointed, apart from the officials, to investigate these things?

Mr. McKenna: The statement refers to the prisons all over the country. I do not understand that there is any serious dispute of the statement I have made.

Sir Charles Henry: The letter to which I referred is dated April 13, and it referred to Aylesbury Prison.

Mr. McKenna: I understand that to be the case to which my hon. friend referred, and I am happy to be able to say that there is no truth at all in the statements.

MISS PANKHURST'S ANSWER.

We are glad to give publicity to the following letter, which Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has sent us:—

A letter on the treatment of Suffragist prisoners, which appeared from me in the papers on the 13th instant, was the subject of a question by Sir Charles S. Henry to the Home Secretary yesterday. In this letter I said:—

"It is now known that seventeen women Suffragists are being forcibly fed in Aylesbury Prison, and it seems that the horrible atrocities which were perpetrated upon the women political prisoners in 1909 are being re-enacted."

"The general public must remember that forcible feeding (in any circumstances painful and dangerous) is not done in prison as it would be done in a hospital. Already, in dozens of cases, the forcible feeding of Suffragist prisoners has been accompanied by wanton and unnecessary cruelty. Women have been thrown into dark, damp, and unwholesome cells, have been handcuffed, frog-marched, beaten, and bruised."

"The treatment to which the letter referred belongs for the most part to the period between the middle of September, 1909, and the end of January, 1910. The reason for this is that it was in July, 1909, that the Suffragist prisoners first protested against the refusal of political treatment by means of the hunger strike, and it was in the following September that the forcible feeding of Suffragettes was first employed by the authorities. In January, 1909, the militant Suffragists called a truce, and after the truce was over the ameliorations of Rule 243a were

introduced by Mr. Churchill. Though these ameliorations did not by any means include the full rights of political prisoners, the Suffragettes agreed for the time being to accept them as a compromise, and there was no hunger strike until the ameliorations granted under Rule 243a were recently withdrawn. In view of the forcible feeding of the women, of which we had just learnt when I wrote my letter, I called attention to the fact that forcible feeding had in the past been accompanied by other acts of brutality, because I feared that it might be accompanied by similar acts in the future. Mr. McKenna's justification of handcuffing (in his reply to Sir Chas. Henry yesterday) shows that I was not wrong. Mr. McKenna states in reply to Sir Chas. Henry's question as to whether there was any substance or foundation for my statements, that my letter is "a tissue of falsehoods." He also says that the charges contained in my letter were "carefully made in such general terms as to prevent the possibility of legal proceedings being taken."

Such was not my object, and I will now proceed to give the details necessary both to prove my case and to give Mr. McKenna the opportunity to prosecute me, if he so desires.

Perhaps the most notorious of the cases to which I referred are those of Miss Selina Martin and Miss Leslie Hall, who, on December 21, 1909, were arrested in connection with Mr. Asquith's visit to Birkenhead. These two women were brought before Mr. Shepherd Little, and remanded to Walton Gaol until December 27, 1909, although they agreed to give undertakings to be of good behaviour until the time of their trial. Whilst still unconvicted prisoners they were treated like ordinary convicted criminals. Because of her protests on the day of her arrival in gaol, on December 21, Miss Martin was struck and pummelled by the head wardress and several others. She says, "They fell on me and beat me unmercifully; they pulled me off the bed and threw me on the floor." She was then put in a cold punishment cell and handcuffed, her hands being fastened behind during the day, and in front at night. The irons were kept on until the evening of the 23rd, when several wardresses appeared, and ordered Miss Martin to the doctor's room to be forcibly fed. She refused to go, and her story of what happened next is as follows:—"I was then thrown down, turned over, and frog-marched up some steps, and my head bumped on the steps as I was marched." She explains frog-marching as being carried face downwards by the arms and legs. She was then forcibly fed by the stomach tube, "much unnecessary force" being used. Her story continues:—"The operation finished, I walked from the room handcuffed, to the top of the stairs, but refused to return to the punishment-cell. Two wardresses then got me by the shoulders, and dragged me down the steps, another kicking me from behind. As I reached the bottom step the wardresses released their hold, and I fell on my head. I was picked up and carried to the cell." After being forcibly fed next day, she tells us that she "was carried by a number of wardresses down the steps, my head being allowed to bump on the steps."

On December 27 Miss Martin received her sentence, and was taken back to the punishment-cell; a strait-jacket was put on her, and was kept on until the following day.

Miss Leslie Hall was also treated with much violence, both before and after sentence. She was kept in handcuffs for three days, whilst in the punishment-cell, and forcibly fed after two and a half days of hunger strike, being sick after every operation. Whilst the doctor was feeding her he joked continually with the wardresses, saying, amongst other things, "It is like stuffing a turkey for Christmas," and "She is mentally sick." He suggested that tracheotomy would be a possible way out of the difficulty. This took place whilst Miss Hall was a remand prisoner. After being sentenced, she, also, was put in a strait-jacket.

After giving some further instances of handcuffing, Miss Pankhurst proceeds:—

The following women were placed in padded cells during their imprisonment: Miss Selina Martin (under the name of Miss Edwards), at Winson Green Gaol, for two days, during her imprisonment, which lasted from September 22 to November 2, 1909; Mrs. Mary Leigh, who was imprisoned in Winson Green Gaol on November 22, 1909, was twice put in a padded cell, once for one day, and once for four days.

Since July, 1909, when the hunger strike began, a large number of women have been confined in punishment cells. I can only give what has been said by a few of them. Miss Florence Cook, who was sent to Holloway Gaol on July 12, 1909, describes her punishment-cell as "a damp, underground dungeon, horribly dirty, with scarcely any ventilation, and no light except that which came from the thick skylight in the ceiling, so that the place was nearly dark." She says the only bed in the room was a piece of wood let into the wall. "For sleeping at night a mattress was given me, but this and all the utensils in my room smelt horribly."

Miss Florence Spong, imprisoned in Holloway at the same time, describes the punishment-cell as "damp, icy cold, and dark." She says: "In the dim light I discovered a plank bed in one corner of the cell, about four inches from the ground, with a wooden pillow at the head. Opposite was a tree-stump, clamped to the wall, for a seat, and in another corner was a shelf, with a filthy rubber tumbler full of water. High above the bed was a small window, and through the tiny panes of opaque glass the faint light filtered. Two pools of water near the head of the bed never dried up. There was a small square of glass high above the door, and through this the light of a tiny gas-jet flickered from the corridor outside. This was lit at five o'clock, and just enabled me to see the objects in my cell. At eight o'clock three wardresses brought me a mattress and some rugs."

Three of the women who were imprisoned in Winson Green Gaol, Birmingham, on September 22, 1909, were also placed in padded cells. Miss Selina Martin (Miss Edwards) describes her cell as "semi-subterranean." Mrs. Leigh says of hers: "A very cold, dark room on the ground floor, where the light only shows on very bright days. There is no furniture in it." Miss Laura Ainsworth says that the only furniture in hers was a plank-bed and a wooden stump.

Miss Garnet, imprisoned in Bristol from November 15 to December 14, 1909, was placed in what she describes as "a dark and foul-smelling punishment-cell, with damp walls, dirty floor, and cobwebs on the window." She was kept there eleven days, till found unconscious one morning and removed to hospital.

In addition to the handcuffing, frog-marching, and placing in punishment cells that I mentioned in my letter, several other special acts of cruelty were perpetrated. The hose pipe was played on Miss Emily Wilding Davison, who was imprisoned in Strangeways Gaol, Manchester, on October 31, 1909. She brought an action against the Authorities, and recovered damages from them on January 19, 1909. Judge Parry declared that the assault was "unreasonable and unnecessary."

Lady Constance Lytton, when imprisoned as Jane Wharton in Walton Gaol, Liverpool, was forcibly fed without her heart having been tested. The doctor sat upon her knees during the forcible feeding, and on one occasion struck her in the face. Miss Dorothy Pethick, who was imprisoned in Newcastle on October 9, 1909, was also forcibly fed without her heart having been tested. She complained to the Government Inspector that the doctor had been unnecessarily rough in his treatment. He defended himself by saying, "of course, one was not in the best of tempers." Miss Pethick was not the first I had to deal with.

Although Mr. Herbert Gladstone, in reply to protests from members of the medical profession, stated in the House of Commons, that the tubes used for forcible feeding were thoroughly clean, and kept in boracic solution between each operation, Miss Pethick reports that she saw the feeding tube lying open and exposed in a basket in the reception room.

Miss Helen Liddle, imprisoned in Strangeways Gaol, Manchester, from October 21, 1909, to November 19, 1909, reports that at the end of the second week her mouth was painfully swollen both inside and out, and her lips gathered so that the wardress expressed pity. The operation was so repulsive that two wardresses were obliged to leave her cell, sick and faint. Once the senior doctor got a piece of her cheek caught in the gag, causing her so much pain that the wardress intervened. The junior doctor then said to the senior doctor, "Can you see?" The senior doctor admitted that he could not, and a light was brought.

Miss Jones, imprisoned in Newcastle on October 9, 1909, complains that to force her mouth open the doctor sawed the spout of the feeding cup along her gums. Miss Liddle, Miss Pethick, and many other women, complained that too much liquid food was administered (in some cases one quart) at a time, causing great pain and indigestion, in addition to all the other horrors of forcible feeding.

Numbers of women, who are prepared to testify, can give examples of undue violence being used towards them, in addition to the inevitable agony of forcible feeding—the pain in the nose and throat, the whole of which feels as if it were being torn out when the tube is withdrawn, the burning sensation, and the rushing noises in the head, the pressure in the ears, the acute pain in the chest, and the dreadful nausea and faintness. All the women who were forcibly fed were obliged to receive medical treatment and careful nursing on their release.

In concluding this brief account of some of the incidents to which I referred—and there are many others to match them—I beg to inform Mr. McKenna and the public that the acts of which I complain turn out, as I feared, not to be confined to the end of 1909 and the beginning of 1910. Whilst I have been writing this letter, Miss Lilla A. Durham has called in to tell me that on March 3 of this year (1912), she was frogmarched in

Holloway, being carried face downwards by the arms and legs from the exercise ground. Dr. Frances Ede, and Miss Jeanie Shepherd witnessed this from their cell windows in D. X.

Members of the Government have frequently asserted that they have enquired into and have disproved the complaints of Suffragist prisoners, but no proper enquiry has ever yet been held. On several occasions, for instance, in the case of Miss Selina Martin and Miss Leslie Hall above referred to, representatives of the Home Office have been sent down to the prison in question, and have secretly questioned the officials concerned, but the women who have made the complaint have never been given an opportunity to state their case. One-sided secret enquiries cannot in ordinary fairness be held to prove or disprove anything. We who know the honourable character of the large number of women who have made the statements concerning the ill-treatment, rely on what they tell us. I challenge Mr. McKenna to institute a thorough public investigation of the whole matter; if he prefers it, let this be held in connection with a prosecution for libel in a Court of Law.

Lastly, I would say in all seriousness, that it is useless for Mr. McKenna or anyone else to seek to justify either handcuffing or any other cruelty on the ground that the women were troublesome. Of course, they were troublesome—they were protesting in the only way open to them against the refusal of their just claim to be treated as political offenders! Those who strive to silence a demand for justice with cruelty will always find, unless they are dealing with cowards, that they will be led into greater and greater cruelties.

Faithfully yours,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

April 23, 1912.

MRS. PANKHURST'S PRISON TREATMENT.

Mr. McKenna, in the House of Commons on Thursday, March 28, characterised as "reckless" certain statements as to Mrs. Pankhurst's treatment in prison. A long and admirable reply to the Home Secretary by Dr. Ethel Smyth appeared in the *Times* of April 19. We have not space to quote the letter in full, but we select the following telling passages:—

Will it be believed that from the time of her arrival at Holloway on March 2 Mrs. Pankhurst was deprived of both exercise and human companionship; later on of books; even the Bible and Prayer-book invariably left in every cell were lacking in hers; that on her removal to the hospital, though allowed to read, she was locked up in a gloomy ground-floor cell far away from her companions, and even then only allowed to join them during the short hour of exercise because she absolutely refused to take the air alone; that whereas the rest of us were having our meals and spending most of our time together in the ward, this woman, upon whom, while serving one sentence, a new, grave, and complicated charge had suddenly been sprung, was begrudged every chance of maintaining her mental and physical health, was actually kept without rhyme or reason during ten whole days for twenty-three hours out of the twenty-four in solitary confinement, the loneliness and deadly monotony of her existence being varied only by occasional interviews with her solicitor and weary, nerve-racking attendance at the police-court? All this "by order." On March 17 the authorities apparently cried, "Hold, enough!"; the prisoner was suddenly admitted to our company, and on April 4 released on bail, with little over a fortnight before her in which to recover as best she may her health and nervous equipoise, as well as prepare her defence, which, as she from the first announced, she intends to conduct herself.

Suffragettes are variously described by Cabinet Ministers and in leading articles as "maniacs," "hysterical young girls," "miserable women," "dupes of the suffrage leaders," and so on. My division at Holloway consisted latterly of about fifty prisoners, whose mingled wrath and amusement at the latter qualification may be imagined when I give the result of an informal census. Three of them were under twenty-five; about ten, I should judge, would never see thirty again; ten or twelve confessed to over forty-five; and five to over fifty-five—the large majority, in short, women well past middle age. Among them Mrs. Brackenbury, a general's widow, aged seventy-nine (the youngest of us all); Mrs. Saul Solomon (widow of a well-known African statesman); two rescue workers from Scotland, a missionary—all elderly women; three hospital nurses, three University graduates, a few people obviously of means and leisure, but the greater part women who earn their bread, among whom some had lost their situations over this venture, but gazed with absolutely fearless eyes into the future. I have never kept such wonderful company as these bright, resolute, indomitable, most normal, and human women—in touch with reality and therefore simple and sincere; sure of balance, and therefore completely armed against fate—each one on a large or small scale a born leader. Whatever else the militant movement may do, it does not breed sheep.

RECEPTION TO THE LEADERS.

All Will Be Well!

It was a happy gathering at the Connaught Rooms last Saturday evening. No one knew what the future might bring, no one knew for how long the leaders, if convicted, might be taken away, but everyone knew that all was for the best, that, whatever happened, the movement would go on to victory.

The hall was filled with an animated throng of people; suddenly the groups ceased talking, and formed one of the great cheering audiences which this movement knows so well. The leaders had mounted the platform, and it was long before the applause subsided to allow them to speak. Mrs. Mansel took the chair, and after a few stirring words of introduction, called upon Mrs. Pethick Lawrence to speak.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

Mrs. Lawrence said:—

This evening is not an occasion for making speeches. We have come together that we as friends and comrades may clasp each other by the hand, that we may feel once again at this hour the strength and the inspiration of that spirit of fellowship which, above all, has characterised this movement, and which is such a great comfort to us all. Whatever happens as the result of our trial next week, of this we may be perfectly certain, that the movement will get on quicker than it has ever done before, because, you see, although they may put us in prison, they cannot put all of you, and as long as you are out this movement is safe. Friends, I want to tell you this seriously and with all my heart. You have spoken in your own way of your love for us; we love you; we have for you collectively and for you individually a sense of fellowship, a sense of admiration, and, above all, a great trust and a great knowledge that whatever comes you will never fail us.

The political situation of the present moment is extremely difficult. What is there now, as practical politicians, for Suffragists to work for? There are only two things for any man or any woman who puts suffrage first. There are only two alternatives, as practical politicians, before them. The first thing is to work with might and main to get a Woman Suffrage amendment into the Home Rule Bill; but, if that attempt should be defeated, whether they are Liberals or whether they are Nationalists, or whatever they are, they have only one course before them, that is to defeat the Home Rule Bill and turn out the Government. For the position has come to this. It is literally true that the Liberal Government cannot now bring in Woman Suffrage in any form, either by amendment or in any other way, without losing the Irish Party; that is to say, without losing office. How blind, how foolish, how politically unwise are those people who in face of these political facts still pin their faith to a Reform Bill which will never come, and to an amendment which could not possibly be carried if the Liberal Party remained in office!

You must go away and explain this position to the people of the country. They don't understand our people, they cannot imagine why women threw stones—they would understand it if we could make clear to them the trickery and the treachery by which our movement, when it could not be defeated by repression, was betrayed by guile. That is what we have to make them understand. What is needed now is a great campaign of education and of enlightenment. You must all use your time, you must all use your brains. A great campaign, a great series of letters must be written to all the local papers. We must have a great open-air campaign. You must make the people understand, because when you have made the people of this country understand you will have their sympathy and you will have their support—and not before.

Whatever happens, all is well. We have been enabled to do our share in the greatest moral revolution the world has ever seen. We all go forward full of courage, full of determination, undaunted and glad at heart; and we know that we have our faces set to the dawn, the dawn of liberty!

Mr. Lawrence.

I feel that we are all very glad and very happy here to-night, because we have very glad and good tidings, that the old, ugly reign of sex bitterness and sex domination is rapidly coming to an end, and that the time when there is going to be sex trust and sex confidence is coming on. People outside this movement are all telling us that we are fighting a sex war, and we are creating sex bitterness and sex antagonism. You all know here that it is the exact reverse of the truth. We see good men and we see bad men, we see good women and we see bad women. We see heroic deeds done by men and we see heroic deeds done by women, and we thank God for both. We see examples of it every day, our minds have only recently turned to that great catastrophe which has happened to the ship Titanic in crossing the ocean. Just as the men there on the ocean put the saving of the lives of the women first, so we know that in this country in the daily lives of women how many women deliberately, when they are short of food, starve themselves in order that their husbands and their children shall be fed. We know also that every year thousands of women die in bringing life into the world, and it is just because we see these heroic

deeds done by men and women that we are here to thank God that we are, both men and women, alike members of the great human race. We will stand together, we will fight our battles together, and we believe in a common heritage and a common freedom for both.

Mrs. Pankhurst.

As I came into the hall this evening, a message was put into my hands from some women who would be with us to-night were it possible. It is a message from Holloway. (Applause.) Our comrades there know of this meeting, and they sent this message to me and to you:—

"Our love to all. We are happy in the knowledge that splendid work is being done outside."

In the eighteenth century and in the nineteenth century in this country, criminals, law-breakers of the ordinary kind were treated with terrible severity. They were hanged for sheep-stealing, they were hanged for thefts of goods exceeding one shilling in value. We have humanised that treatment for ordinary criminals, although much is left to be desired, but we have gone back in our treatment of political prisoners. In those harsh days they treated political prisoners as honourable prisoners of war. English Governments allowed men like Cobbett, who incited to rebellion and mutiny, rooms in the prison in which they lived with their families; and William Cobbett not only had his family with him in prison, not only managed his estate in prison, but actually wrote leading articles denouncing the very people who put him in prison, and the Government of those days allowed those articles to leave the prison and to be published in the papers. Contrast such treatment with that of political prisoners to-day. And to those dear women who send the message we say, "Yes, outside we are doing what we can to win for political prisoners the treatment they should receive since the Government won't give us the vote; we are doing what we can, but you inside, at the peril of your lives, are doing infinitely more than any of us, however influential."

We are perfectly certain that you will stand by this cause, you will sacrifice for it, you will be loyal to it, and you will be loyal to us. (Great applause.) But it is right that I should say one or two words of warning to you. Don't listen, when it comes to political action, to any friends of the movement however sincere, outside those whom you have chosen as your leaders. There will be people who will invite you to weaken because of your affection for us. They will say to you that it will be easier for us if you make concessions in this way or that. If there is one thing that could hurt us in prison, if there is one thing that could break our hearts, it would be the thought that your affection for us should be used to weaken your determination to go on with this movement, by your readiness to accept anything less than the full enfranchisement of women. There are people who will say to you, as they said last November when I was in America, that if we were with you our advice would be different. Don't listen to that for one moment. We who may be going are full of trust and confidence in those we leave outside. Read the paper. Take your political instructions from the leading articles. Consult those who remain at Clement's Inn to be consulted with regard to policy and with regard to work, and if you do that, whatever they do to us will not matter one jot. All will be well.

We are going to face this trial with glad hearts, because we know that the fact that this trial should be held is the very best thing that could happen to this movement, and, whatever is the result of it, it means one step further on this holy road which we have had to tread since this modern movement for woman suffrage began. And so the trial, like everything else that has happened to us, is going to be a great victory for the women's cause.

A Message from Miss Pankhurst.

Someone called out "Christabel!" and there was great and prolonged applause. Mrs. Pankhurst: "Christabel sends you her love!" (Tremendous applause and great excitement.) A voice: "We all send our love to Christabel."

Mrs. Take.

I wish I had words to tell you of the happiness that is in my heart to-night in finding myself here amongst all the dear comrades and friends. As I look into the future I see all sorts of trials and difficulties ahead of us all besides a great deal of work. But I know one thing, that if we are faithful to our great cause and to the magnificent ideals for which it stands, and the leaders who have led us so magnificently up to this, if we are linked together in the bonds of love and service for womanhood and humanity, then the final success of our cause is very, very near. As our cause is just, God will defend it and us.

RECEPTION TO DR. ETHEL SMYTH.

As the leaders' trial is expected to begin on Monday, April 29, it has been decided to abandon the welcome breakfast and reception to Dr. Ethel Smyth which was being arranged by members of the musical section of the Actresses' Franchise League, but the musicians desire to express to her their great appreciation of her devotion to the cause.

THE HUNGER STRIKE AND FORCIBLE FEEDING.

Plain Tales From Prisoners.

I was released on Thursday, April 18, from Holloway. From the beginning of our imprisonment there had been unrest amongst us, because we felt we were in danger of losing altogether what had been so hardly won. Each of us sent a petition to the Home Secretary, and heard in about a fortnight that this had been carefully considered, but could not be granted. No reply came to a further petition that Mr. McKenna would give his reasons for withholding our privileges under Rule 243A, and as a last resource ninety-two of us determined on a hunger strike. I think a few in DX Wing started on the 13th, and as the prison authorities knew nothing about it till the 17th, they must have suffered acutely before they were forcibly fed. The great majority of us refused food after taking breakfast on the 16th. On Wednesday we went to chapel and exercised as usual. We thought each other looking a little better than usual—our eyes were larger and darker, our colour more brilliant. We decided that we would openly refuse our dinners, and very soon after the Governor came round and announced to each of us in turn that, subject to being of good behaviour and doing work, we should be allowed a letter out and in once a fortnight, and a visitor once a month. (As I had refused to do any work, it did not apply to me.) In the afternoon, at exercise, we held a consultation, and decided that we could not accept concessions in instalments, but that all that we asked for must be granted us at one time. Our demand was for our own clothes and our own books; one letter in and out each fortnight; visitors once a fortnight; parcels containing food and other necessities at our discretion; associated exercise, with unrestricted freedom of conversation, twice a day. To this demand we added a desire that we might have newspapers and writing materials. We desired that these concessions should be made in writing to at least one of our number. I should explain that Mr. McKenna had ordered that we should be put in prison clothes, and although this order was not enforced, we wanted to make it once for all impossible that such an order should be given. On Thursday we did not go to chapel, but we met at exercise, most of us beginning to look ill. We (of E Wing) were called in to see the Governor, who announced a further concession; each of us was to be allowed to have a hamper or parcel, not exceeding 11lb in weight, once a week. This we unanimously refused, saying that many kinds of food would not keep for a week, and we must ask to have parcels when convenient to us. We were told that we should meet other friends from DX Wing at exercise in the afternoon, but this promise was not kept. We remained locked in our cells, and when my door was unlocked I saw preparations for forcible feeding—a number of young wardresses waiting with wooden armchairs and bandages. There was then an ominous silence in the Wing, except for footsteps going to the cells in turn. They left me alone, but the doctor came and examined me about six. He told me that my light must be kept burning during the night in order that I might be watched. I think now that this may have been a last effort to scare me into eating. About 7.30 a hospital nurse came to tell me I was to be sent home that night, and having assured myself that this really was the case, I consented to take a little Brand's Essence, and then an egg in milk. I collected my things, and was taken to the gate, where a taxi was waiting, and at the Government's expense, in charge of a nurse, armed with brandy, in case of need, I was taken home. Two were released before me. Mrs. Taylor, who, although she was in hospital, refused to take food, went first, and next, on Thursday morning, Mrs. Corner, a very daring, but fragile, person, vanished.

SARAH BENNETT.

tell me that I was released unconditionally. Several from DX had been sent to the Infirmary, and I believe others were being forcibly fed.

S. CORNER.

Another prisoner writes: It is significant that the ones who were forcibly fed are now in hospital. The forcible feeding was done by the nasal tube, once a day in some cases, and in others twice a day, and began on Wednesday. A more horrible sensation I never have felt. Thank goodness, it is over. In the case of Mrs. Sadd-Brown they made four attempts, and the second time after four attempts they failed. There was bleeding both from nose and throat. She was threatened with the mouth tube. Her nose had been broken, and throat and nose operated on, as she informed the doctor before he started, and also the Governor before the second time the feeding was attempted.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, April 17, Mr. Fletcher asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will reconsider his view as to the necessity of forcible feeding of prisoners.

Mr. McKenna: The forcible feeding of prisoners is a matter of necessary medical treatment carried out in accordance with the law as laid down by the High Court. If the hon. Member can suggest any better means for preserving the life of a prisoner who refuses to take food in the ordinary way, I shall be most happy to consider it; but it must be plain to him that it is impossible to allow any prisoner to determine the length of his own sentence by setting him at liberty if he chooses to refuse food for a few days.

Mr. Fletcher: Will not the right hon. gentleman give fuller discretion to the magistrates to discharge prisoners when necessary before they are tortured instead of after?

Mr. J. Ward: And will that discretion also apply to thieves or any other criminals who are in prison?

Mr. McKenna: We have a careful report of every case from the medical officer as to whether the person is in a suitable state of health, and whenever the medical officer reports that he is not in a suitable state of health, the prisoner is discharged at once. That would apply to all classes of offenders.

Mr. Lansbury asked how many, if any, suffragist prisoners are being forcibly fed, and whether any further arrangements have been made as to the grant of the privileges contained in Rule 243a?

Mr. McKenna: The number who have to be fed by artificial means varies from day to day, but, including all the prisons, it is now, I understand, seventeen. In view of representations made to me by the chairman of the London Quarter Sessions, I have decided to extend Rule 243a to all the suffragist prisoners convicted at Quarter Sessions. The privileges given under the rules will be modified in one or two particulars. It will not be possible to allow the large number of suffragists now in prison to have their meals sent in from outside indiscriminately, but, as many of them are old or in poor health, their ordinary diet will be modified to suit their needs by the prison medical officer, and subject to his approval each prisoner will be allowed to have sent in by their friends, if they so desire, one parcel of food weekly on a specified day. They will be employed only on the lighter forms of prison labour, and they will, if they behave well, have monthly visits and fortnightly letters. Strictly speaking, I have no power to extend the privileges to the hard labour prisoners; but, as those now in prison are all approaching the termination of their sentences, I feel I shall not be guilty of any serious irregularity if I allow them to be treated in the same way as the others.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the announcement applies to prisoners elsewhere than London?

Mr. McKenna: Yes, sir; it applies to suffragist prisoners wherever they may be.

THE VOICE.

The Right Hon. Herbert Samuel (Postmaster General) was present at the Chamber of Commerce Dinner, held at the Connaught Rooms on Thursday, April 18. When "His Majesty's Ministers" was proposed, Mr. Samuel rose to reply. During the momentary silence which followed, another gentleman rose, and, turning to Mr. Samuel, called out clearly, "Why do Ministers deny justice to women?" On hearing this, Mr. Samuel sat down abruptly, and the same speaker asked, "Will Mr. Samuel answer my question? Why do Ministers deny justice to women?" The questioner was proceeding to refer to Home Rule, but was stopped. By this time there was a good deal of uproar. But above this noise another voice was heard calling, "No forcible feeding." This cry was taken up by other guests present, and for a time confusion reigned. It was noticeable, however, that the treatment of the interrupters was much less severe than it used to be on such occasions.

B. F.

THE RIGHT OF REBELLION.

MP.'s on Militancy.

In the course of the Home Rule debate there have been many references to the subject of militant methods. Militant Suffragists have not failed to notice that both Home Rulers and Unionists admit rebellion to be virtuous, provided there exist oppression and injustice which can be removed in no other way. Nationalists who took part in the debate proudly claimed that revolt has been the chief weapon of reform in Ireland: Mr. Birrell urged as an argument for the Home Rule Bill that it would cure existing lawlessness in Ireland. Chief interest centres in the Unionist utterances on the point. Mr. Balfour, while much more guarded in his utterances than some of his colleagues, openly referred to the possibility of lawlessness in Ulster if the Home Rule Bill be carried. Lord Hugh Cecil gave an eloquent exposition of the principles which justify rebellion. He declared that "to a Bill so put forward the people of Ulster have every right to offer resistance." He argued that rebellion, while always unlawful, is often righteous, and said:—

"The present Sovereign sits upon the Throne in right of a successful rebellion, by reason of a triumphant treason. No one who has taken the oath of allegiance to the King can reasonably say that rebellion is in every case an unrighteous thing, though in every case it is an unlawful thing. I know it is a very difficult and dangerous exercise of the mind, but every rebellion must be judged on its merits. You cannot lay down a wooden rule. Some rebellions are righteous, and some are unrighteous. The question that needs to be decided in every case is, What are the particular circumstances that justify a particular resistance to the law?"

Admirably stated! This is the very argument used by militant Suffragists, whose rebellion is one of the most righteous the world has ever seen.

Lord Hugh Cecil predicted that violence and disorder would result in Ulster if the attempt were made to compel by coercion obedience to a Nationalist Parliament, and he further predicted that such an attempt would not, and could not, be made. "Conceive," said he, "the coercing of a great body of people in the name of self-government!"

Mr. Moore, of whom it has been said that he in a special sense embodies the very spirit of Ulster resistance to Home Rule, spoke in most militant words. "We are not going on any terms to submit ourselves to the Government to be set up by these proposals. I say solemnly here that as long as they have

a drop of blood in their bodies Ulster men will do their best to make the Government of Ireland by Mr. Redmond and his friends impossible. We pledged ourselves to this the other day in Belfast. I don't want to be taken as threatening—I am only saying what I feel in every fibre of my body. If you are going to plant Home Rule, you cannot do it till you have wiped us out, and the blood will be on your hands and not on ours. If you propose to sell me into a political slavery under the new Constitution you are setting up, I say that I do not regard it as rebelling to resist that to the best of my ability, and, please God, I shall do it." This is what the men of Ulster are saying, although the injustice they allege is done to them under the Government's Home Rule proposals is infinitely less than the injustice done to all Irishwomen under the Bill.

Mr. Bonar Law, the Unionist Leader, spoke with much emphasis of Ulster's resolve to rebel against an Irish Parliament. Describing the recent demonstration at Belfast in words which would serve admirably well as a description of a W.S.P.U. meeting held on the eve of a protest, he said:—

"I was present at a gathering of these people. No words I can use will adequately express the impressiveness of what I saw. It really was not like a political demonstration. It was the expression of the soul of a people."

Then followed Mr. Bonar Law's statement of Ulstermen's intentions. "They say they will not submit except by force to such a Government. How are you going to prevent that? I know that in what I am saying I run the risk of being told that I am talking incendiaryism unworthy of the position which I hold. I take that risk. I have another duty—to impress upon the House and the country so far as my words can reach, the reality of the situation in Ireland. . . . These men are ready in what they believe to be the cause of justice to lay down their lives. How are you going to overcome that resistance?"

Such is the teaching which the Unionist leaders are offering to the nation. They are upholding the right of rebellion against what is deemed to be political injustice. Their words fall upon the ears of women as well as upon the ears of men, though truth to tell, women waited not for their sanction and advice before beginning a most righteous revolution in the cause of the enfranchisement of their sex.

VIEWS OF GREAT STATESMEN.

Lord Beaconsfield in 1846:

Speaking in the House of Commons in support of a motion to secure better treatment for Chartist prisoners, Lord Beaconsfield, then Mr. Disraeli, said as follows:—

The question was whether there had not been a change of punishment for political offences. Was it denied that persons convicted of political offences had been treated as felons? . . . Since 1792 there had been no instance of persons convicted of political offences being treated in the same way as such persons had been treated by the present Government. . . . The imprisonment of such persons was only for the safety of the State, not for the infliction of punishment.

Mr. Gladstone in 1889:

Speaking on the prison treatment of Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Gladstone said in the House of Commons on March 1, 1889:—

I know very well you cannot attempt to frame a legislative definition of political offences; but what you can do, and what always has been done, is this: You can say that in certain classes of the imprisoned a person ought not to be treated as if he had been guilty of base and degrading crime. . . . Though sensitiveness to indignities of this kind may be a matter on which men will differ according to their temperament and their ideas, yet such sensitiveness is rather to be encouraged than to be repressed, for it appertains to that lofty sentiment, that spirit which was described by Burke in animated language when he said: "The spirit which feels a stain like a wound." . . . A prison is becoming, under the rule of the present Government, a temple of honour.

Lord Morley in 1889:

Lord Morley, speaking on the imprisonment of Mr. Harrington, another Irish political offender, said at Sheffield in 1889:—

He declines to give an assurance not to repeat this act—and receives a sentence of six months' hard labour. Does not this show that Mr. Harrington has gone to prison not for his crime, but because he refused to discontinue this practice? . . . I say deliberately that the sentence was a disgrace to the magistrate who passed it, and to the Parliament and to the Government who gave such power to the magistrate. Yes, and a disgrace to you, the working men of Sheffield, who send these gentlemen to Parliament to support that system.

PRISONERS RELEASED UP TO APRIL 17.

Miss E. Bartlett	Miss Margaret Haly	Mrs. Annie Myer
Mrs. E. Beedham	Mrs. Joan Hall	Miss Zoe Proctor
Miss Sarah Bennett	Miss Mollie Hughes	Dr. Ethel Smyth
Miss R. Billingham	Miss Annie Humphries	Mrs. Sam Solomon
Mrs. Branson	Miss I. Ingles	Mrs. A. Swan
Mrs. Brackenbury	Mrs. C. Ireland	Miss D. Swan
Miss G. Brackenbury	Mrs. E. Jack	Mrs. N. Taylor
Miss M. Brackenbury	Mrs. E. Jacobs	Mrs. E. Thomas
Miss J. Brown	Miss E. Jarvis	Miss Elizabeth
Miss A. Buckton	Mrs. Leah Josephs	Miss Thomson
Mrs. Ida Cairns	Miss P. Julian	Mrs. Tuke
Mrs. B. Corner	Miss P. Kellor	Miss Dorothy Wharfen
Miss Joan Daring	Miss Agnes Kelly	Miss W. Whitlock
Dr. Frances Ede	Miss Leolin Lawless	Miss A. Williams
Miss Frances Franklin	Mrs. Lizzie Mackenzie	Miss Elsie Wilson
Mrs. M. Fraser	Mrs. Marshall	Miss Louise Wilson
Miss Mary Gray	Miss Mary Martin	Miss Amy Woodman
Miss Laura Gargoth	Miss Lily Morris	Mrs. Sarah Yeake
Dr. Gertrude Anderson		

* Released before expiration of sentence as the result of the Hunger strike.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Prisoners' Secretary.

All enquiries with regard to prisoners should be sent to Miss Olive Smith, W.S.P.U., 4, Clement's Inn, W.C. The Prison Authorities will only give information with regard to dates on which prisoners are due for release to their relatives. We should be glad if relatives would forward this information when received to the Prisoners' Secretary, 4, Clement's Inn.

Prisoners' Hampers.

In view of the fact that prisoners may receive food only once a week, it is extremely important that their friends should co-operate as to the sending in of hampers in order to avoid overlapping. Parcels must not exceed 11lb in weight, and should be sent by Parcel Post to arrive at Birmingham Tuesday morning, Aylesbury Saturday morning. It is not advisable to send perishable food, but such things as potted meat, Brand's Essence, jam, cheese, nuts, and the less perishable fruits are suggested. It is of no use to send anything which requires heat. If any Suffragist knows of a prisoner who has no friend to send in hampers, will she communicate with the Prisoners' Secretary, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C., who will make some arrangement?

Albert Hall Meeting.

A meeting will be held in the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, June 15. The prices of tickets are as follows:—Amphitheatre stalls, 2s. 6d.; arena, 1s.; balcony, first four rows, 1s., remainder 6d.; upper orchestra, 6d., all numbered and reserved. Boxes, to hold ten, 30s.; eight, 21s.; five, 12s. 6d. The 2s. arena and the lower orchestra seats are sold out. The regulations as to a "full list" of the Hall prevent our selling tickets except to or through our own members. Will members therefore make application to Miss Cooke, Ticket Secretary, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C., for themselves and friends. (We regret that we omitted to state these regulations in last issue.)

London Meetings.

The speakers at the London Pavilion, Piccadilly Circus, W., on Monday, April 23, 3 p.m., will be Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Georgina Brackenbury, and Miss Rachel Barrett. At the Steuway Hall on Thursday, May 2, 8 p.m., Dr. Letitia Fairfield and Mrs. Mansel will speak.

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Silk, 1s. 6d. Sizes—12, 13, 14, 15, 16 inches, from 1/2 in. below neck-
band to waist line at back.If any difficulty in obtaining, send P.O. 1s. 1d. (Cotton), or 1s. 7d.
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"THE NEXT RELIGION."

It was a great play and a great performance that the New Players' Society witnessed at the Pavilion for two afternoons last week. Mr. Zangwill, one of the wittiest of living writers, is one of the most sincere. Like Mr. Bernard Shaw, he has proved that laughter and irony can go side by side with intense earnestness of purpose. The reformer is not necessarily a stuffy and solemn person. But in all Mr. Zangwill's best work and speeches there is a deep and prophetic note, seldom heard even in the greatest of his English-speaking contemporaries. It comes nearest to Tolstoy among the moderns; but one may trace it, I think, to the inherited influence of a race greater in prophecy than any European race has been.

The first two acts are in the main ironic, and the irony is divided almost equally between exposure of the absurdity of Christian dogma as usually understood in England, and the pathetic absurdity of an impractical and rather muddle-headed visionary, who intends to establish the next religion—a genuine and God-fearing religion—on a basis of reasonable and scientific truth alone. During these two acts it was a joy to listen to the mere wit of the dialogue, and to watch the mingled humour and pathos of the situations. One can understand why a British Censor refused to license the play. Never on the stage has the pitiful inadequacy of common beliefs that has incensed the central truths of Christianity been so remorselessly revealed. There are passages which no ordinary English audience would tolerate; not that people really believe the teachings attacked, but that they are not accustomed to hear them attacked at all, or even mentioned out of church. But the attack is directed against the things that do not matter, and the entire sincerity of a mind seeking only for truth—for "truth though it blast me," as Carlyle said—saves it from persiflage.

The last act is more difficult. Plenty of irony and pathos is left; but the wit ceases to laugh, and we witness the supreme conflict between the "Next Religion," so broad, so universal, so rational and secure of facts, and the present religion, so narrow, so insecure, and yet possessing the triumphant quality of human consolation and hope. Which of the two will ultimately hold the field is left undecided. Much will always depend on the temperament and personality—"the will to believe"—in the advocates of each. Those who demand a rational and scientific religion might see themselves justified in the play. But even more easily, I think, could those find justification who cling passionately to an irrational and inexplicable form of belief, without which the human spirit refuses to be satisfied. After all, the most noticeable thing in the struggle of the next religion to assert itself is its close resemblance to the religion it tries to supersede. "The more you change, the more you are the same," someone says of Stephen Trame, priest of the old order and the new. We might say that of the very phases of religion here represented. Of all noble religions it is true to say—the more they change, the more they are the same.

But apart from the play's higher purport, the interest lay in the characters. Perhaps the Bishop, "converter of cannibals," is a little too burlesque, not for life, but for art. But to me the only weak point in the characters is the lunatic blacksmith, who, dressed like an advertisement of the "Smith typewriter," dashes about village and city, maintaining his Evangel by cracking atheist skulls. One could not praise too much either the writing or the acting of Stephen Trame (Mr. Fisher White) and of Silas Burr (Mr. Horace Hodges). The child also said exactly the right things, and was admirably acted by Miss Dorothy Turner. But the great triumph, both in characterisation and performance, was the long and difficult part of Mary Trame, the loving, tormented, and clear-eyed mother and wife. I have never seen Miss Adeline Bourne play better than in this part of the practical idealist and humorous devotee. "True to the kindred points of heaven and home," said Wordsworth of the lark, that idealist among birds; and with the same practical and visionary persistence Mary Trame keeps her eyes equally fixed on God and on the larder.

H. W. N.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"My Memoirs." By Madame Steinheil. (London: Eveleigh Nash. Price 10s. 6d. net.)

"Born Humble." By Nora Pitt Taylor. (London: W. J. Ham-Smith. Price 2s. net.)

"The Woman With the Pack." By Gertrude Vaughan. (London: W. J. Ham-Smith. Price 1s. 6d. net.)

"The Second Woman." By Norma Lorimer. (London: Stanley Paul and Co. Price 6s.)

"Twentieth Century Magazine, April." (Twentieth Century Co., Boston. Price 25 cents.)

"Woman in the New Era." By Charlotte Despard. (London: International Suffrage Shop. Price 4d.)

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VOTES FOR WOMEN

4, CLEMENT'S INN, STRAND.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1912.

THE WOMEN FIRST.

Some people think that the grievous tragedy of
the "Titanic" supplies a reason why women should
not have the vote. On the contrary, it supplies one
of the strongest reasons ever heard of why they
should have it. Thousands of women since the
"Titanic" went down have resolved with a new
fervour to win the vote in order that they may
make it, humanly speaking, impossible for such a
disaster ever to occur again.

The loss of the "Titanic," and the huge consequent
death-roll are the direct consequence of bad laws.
Because the law allows it, the "Titanic," in order to
make a record and to save a few hours, followed a
dangerous, and, as it proved, a fatal course.
Because the law allows it, she was equipped with
a hideously inadequate number of lifeboats, and so
hundreds of lives that might have been saved were
lost. A terrible sacrifice this, made with full legal
sanction, to the essentially masculine passion for
record-breaking and money-making at any and every
cost!

The heroism and the dignity of the victims were
wonderful. As militant Suffragists, we glow with
pride and with admiration when we think of the
men (and the women, for there were women too) who
were ready to die in order that others might have the
chance to live. It is the final destruction of the
theory that physical force is the basis of human
society. Moral force it was that reigned supreme in
that little community on board the "Titanic." Even
at such a moment, when self-control and reason were
strained to their limit, and the sheer animal instinct
of self-preservation might have come uppermost, even
then moral force was not dethroned. But supposing
some of the men had rebelled against the law of
women and children first, and had pushed their way
to the boats, then physical force would have been
used by other men, who would have set upon them
and perhaps even killed them. That is to say,
physical force would have been used for the restraint
of those who were not sufficiently developed to feel
the compelling power of moral force and moral law.

The rule of saving women and children first is
obviously in the interests of race preservation, but
it is based, too, and Suffragists freely recognise this,
on the purest chivalry. The chivalry of man towards
woman is no less beautiful a thing than the chivalry
of woman towards man. The distinction we should
be inclined to draw between them is that whereas
the chivalry displayed by women is more constant,

more a thing of every day, that which men display
is inclined to be spasmodic and uncertain in its
operation.

However, the brave men who died on the "Titanic"
have made us think very kindly of their sex—have
made us more hopeful of getting the fair play in
daily life that we are asking for. If certain poli-
ticians have shown us what man can be at the lowest,
these heroes have shown us what men can be at the
highest. We think with the *Standard* that "it was
a splendid piece of heroism for the male passengers,
emigrants, millionaires, Southampton seamen, and
stokers alike to stand calmly on the sinking decks
waiting for certain death, while the women and
children were carried away to safety." And we
agree with the *Standard* also when it adds: "But
one feels with sorrow and indignation that the
sacrifice ought not to have been required of them."
The sacrifice ought not to have been required of the
men who died, and it ought not to have been required
either of the women who escaped. It is hard to say
whose fate was the more cruel. Some women, we
know, could not, and did not, endure to accept their
bitter privilege, but insisted on the right to die with
their men folk.

There is this further thing to be said on the ques-
tion of saving the women first. If men insist on
making laws which are a peril to those at sea, if
they insist on endangering the lives of all women who
cross the ocean by having too few lifeboats, the least
they can do is to give these women the first chance of
safety.

How strange it is that men will die for women, but
will not legislate for their protection, nor let them
legislate to that end themselves!

Now, women are far more practical than that.
Give them a vote, and they will strike their legisla-
tive blow for sanity, safety, and a sense of propor-
tion! They will rank life above dividends, above
speed-records, and above luxury. They will not
tolerate a law which says that only one person in
three shall have even a chance of being saved if a
ship goes down. For every man on board, as well as
for every woman, they will demand a place in a life-
boat. This is how they will reason the matter out.
What are lifeboats for? To enable those on board to
escape from drowning if a vessel sinks. Then what
is the use of having only one-third or one-fourth of
the number of lifeboats required? They will not be
deceived by the casuistry by which self-interested
persons find it so easy to mislead the more guileless
male. The woman will stick to her point through
thick and thin, and that point will be a seat in a
lifeboat, not only for herself, but for the men too.

The drowning of 1,635 persons has alarmed our
legislators and stirred them to some thought of
action. The pity of it is that women are not yet able,
through their votes, to see that something genuine
shall now be done. When the public mind has a little
recovered from the present pain, suggestions of com-
promise will be advanced, and the men are the com-
promising sex, as well those politicians know who
oppose the enfranchisement of women.

We are familiar with the specious pleas upon which
the present iniquitous law is based. Ships were being
made "unsinkable," we were told. Naval architects
are now explaining how and why that statement
differed from the truth. Brave Captain Smith, we
may be sure, had no illusions on the point; but what
can captains do if companies command and laws
permit? They can only obey and fight as best they
can the fearful risks they are compelled to run.

Women feel acutely upon one particular aspect
of the question. The honour of their country
is very deeply involved. This is the very first
amongst shipping nations, and yet our laws for the
protection of the sea-going public are so bad that we
stand disgraced in the eyes of the world. Britain,
which should have led the way, which should have
established a standard that all others might be proud
to reach, is now the object of bitter and indignant
condemnation by all the civilised countries of the
world.

It is indeed high time that women had the Vote!

CUSTODIA HONESTA FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS.

Custom in Foreign Nations.

By PROFESSOR GEORGE SIGERSON, M.D., &c., Member of the Royal Commission on Prisons, 1884.

"Magnanimity in politics not seldom is the truest wisdom," said Edmund Burke, and this is the principle which guides the conduct of foreign nations, as it once guided that of Britain, in the treatment of political prisoners. Forms of government, and measures relating to the welfare and organisation of society, have been, in all ages and countries, questions on which men have entertained divergent convictions, and asserted their sincerity by conflicting action, often at grave personal sacrifice and the loss of life. Hence civilised States distinguish between actions concerning which good men may reasonably differ, and actions which all good men condemn. The latter, if permitted to prevail, would disintegrate and destroy the social life of mankind: the former, if successful, would simply reorganise it, on a different and perhaps a better basis.

When a Government exercises its punitive power, therefore, it should distinguish between the two classes of offenders. To confound them in a common penalty is inexpedient because it brings odium on the Executive, and if it degrades the political enthusiast to the level of a common criminal, it does so at the cost of raising the status of the common criminal and so decreasing abhorrence of crime. Next, whilst professing to establish equality of punishment, it establishes inequality, for the fate that seems commonplace to a felon, may be torture to the political offender. Jeremy Bentham rightly observes that association with criminals is a pleasure for the perverse, but "an evil most severe for the prisoner of enlightenment and sensibility. It is an addition to the punishment of imprisonment, evidently unequable, unexemplary, and unprofitable." Dealing with inequality of punishment as objectionable in imprisonment, he brands as particularly inequable bonds laid on intellectual occupation. "A privation so heavy for those whom it affects," he adds, "and at the same time so trivial for the greater number of individuals ought not to be admitted in quality of a punishment."

There is another consideration which, I believe, should have much weight. Political offenders stand apart. They are the only offenders in relation to whom the State stands, at one and the same time, as Prosecutor, as Judge, and as Jailer. As regards all other offenders it intervenes as a third impartial party, indifferent to both. Here, however, it is accused of inflicting some wrong, or of maintaining some grievance, and yet it decides on the charge. No man may be a judge in his own cause; but the State, of necessity, must be. This consideration, however, should induce that authority to rise clearly above the very suspicion of partiality in judging, and of vengeance in punishing.

International law forbids us to impose dishonouring conditions on adversaries when made prisoners of war; for a stronger reason a Government should not inflict dishonouring penalties on political opponents, its prisoners, who happen not to be aliens, but citizens of the same country.

Now, let us consider the practice of foreign nations with regard to the treatment of political offenders. It should surprise, enlighten, and humanise the public opinion of a realm, too long forgetful or ignorant of the ancient and honourable custom of the realm.

Custodia Honesta in France.

Prison life in France, for ordinary criminals, has advantages not found in Britain. They can earn money, spend some on slight luxuries, if well behaved, save some for capital on leaving, and contribute a portion to the support of their families. Thus, in 1869, I found from the circular of the Minister of the Interior, that the considerable sum of 86,500 francs (or £3,460) was sent out by prisoners to the assistance of their families. It is a still more remarkable fact that in the same year a sum of 1,400 francs, or £55, was contributed out of their earnings by prisoners as retribution money to persons who had suffered through them. The idle or ill-conducted inflict their own punishment automatically by losing the means of purchasing small quantities of tobacco, wine, &c., at the canteen. Bread and water diet had been long given up, and thick soup substituted. Many would regard this as no deterrent, yet out of over 5,000 rations, only five punishment rations were required in the Paris prisons in 1873. It must be remembered that these prisons are intended for short sentence prisoners. The French have had the advantage of the service of female inspectors of prisons and reformatories.

Political Offenders.

Persons condemned for simple contravention of police regulations and political prisoners are exempt from prison labour of any kind. From a report made on French prisons to the Devon Commission of 1870, by my friend, the late Dr. Lyons, and from official French documents, I find that political prisoners were accorded a generous dietary, including a large

wineglassful of ordinary claret, not of the last vintage. "Independent of the foregoing dietary," they are granted a pound and a third of white bread daily, and nearly a pint of wine. Besides all this, they can purchase extra food from the canteen or from without, but no more than a litre (nearly a quart) should be brought in on any one day.

Visits.

Political prisoners are entitled to visits in the Governor's parlour four times a week. They and their visitors are separated by one row of bars, and the warden stands outside the door of the room, into which he can see through a glass pane. The interview is private. Press offenders are specially privileged. They have been allowed to proceed to prison at a time convenient to themselves. When there, these prisoners guilty of seditious or treasonable libels are allowed to receive their fellow-prisoners, their families, and their friends in their own apartments, and these visitors might (and often did) spend the greater part of the day there, taking their meals with them.

Courteous Consideration.

Of course, the political prisoners were accorded special quarters, as well as special treatment, and to refuse them intellectual occupation was a thing absolutely undreamt of. Their literary labours were facilitated, and they were treated with the utmost courtesy. Thus, Dr. Lyons was not allowed to visit their quarters, as it would be an intrusion, unless invited. The question was not that a stranger wished to see them, but did they express a desire to see him? "In this respect," he writes, "the privacy of their quarters, like that of a home, is fully respected."

As a practical illustration of the manner in which political prisoners were treated under the Second Empire, the case of Messrs. Accolas and Naquet may be cited. They were condemned for exciting to hatred and contempt of the Government by seditious action. The former was condemned to a year's imprisonment, the latter to eighteen months. Yet M. Naquet was allowed to absent himself from prison, on condition of being present at roll call, and M. Accolas to take out his punishment in a pleasant room in St. Louis Hospital, where he received his friends.

"Ces Messieurs sont sortis."

Professor Léveillé, Professor of the Faculty of Law, and member of the Commission of Revision of the Penal Code, wrote in 1889:—

"Political prisoners are not obliged to work or to wear the prison dress, and they are entirely separated from the ordinary prisoners. In the case of short imprisonment, varying from six days to five years, the text of the law is not explicit, but the tradition and custom of the Administration has always been to treat political prisoners with much leniency. They wear their own dress, receive visits from their friends, and need never mix with the other prisoners. Under Louis Philippe, political prisoners such as Cavaignac, Raspail, Trellat, &c., were allowed to leave the prison during the day, and go about the town on parole; so that it often happened that when their friends went to see them, the reply of the prison concierge (or janitor) was, 'Ces messieurs sont sortis' (These gentlemen are not at home)."

There are, no doubt, many who will stare in amazement at such a statement and at such treatment. Yet that which astonishes them now—in a darkened public opinion—is the constitutional custom of the realm. Examples of it are outstanding, as when Thomas Addis Emmet was allowed to escort his wife on her visits to friends around Fort George, and when Sir Charles Wolseley, convicted of conspiracy, was allowed out of Akington Jail to attend trials, and when Cobbett, Leigh Hunt, Lovett, O'Connell, and others were accorded the rights of ancient custom and allowed to entertain their friends and freely pursue their intellectual pursuits in prison. Neither in France nor in England was this treatment prescribed by statute. It was carried out under the common law, by traditional usage and constant custom, which entitled it to due respect from the enlightened legal faculty of Paris, which caused it to be upheld as a decisive precedent by great authorities in Britain, but which has been undermined by makers of gaol regulations—unlearned in Constitutional practice.

Graver Offences.

Whilst political prisoners incarcerated under sentences of less than a year and a day have their apartments as described, equal care is taken to secure separate accommodation for those guilty of graver offences ranking in the same category. From time to time, whenever requisite, a special quarter is set apart for them, by decree of the prefect in one or other of the "Maisons Centrales." Such a quarter, "for the detention of political offenders," is reserved for them exclusively, and they are granted "many and exceptional favours: they have full access to the canteen, which affords many facilities to the prisoners for gaining little luxuries and enjoyments." The distinction is carried further. Whilst the criminal who has escaped or broken his license is liable to transportation to Guyana, "exception was made of those whose strength of opinion only had compromised." "Thus," adds the official document, "the Government, in accord on this subject with public opinion, traced from the commencement a line of demarcation between the political offender and the common criminal."

Who are Political Offenders?

The French have been less reticent on this subject than the English, who left the manner of their treat-

ment to Common-law Custom and precedent. Several eminent statesmen, including Guizot and Thiers, have drawn up official documents on the subject. Thiers, in a ministerial circular, dated August 7, 1834, lays down the fundamental principles of distinction in a sure and solid manner. "The Government," he writes, "has judged it to be suitable and in conformity with public opinion not to confound in any case political convicts, purely such, with other convicts sentenced to houses of coercion and correction, and I have also decided that they should receive a better alimentary regimen, and that they should not be forced to work. But one condition is indispensable in order that men condemned to seclusion or imprisoned for acts of a political nature, be admitted to enjoy these favours: it is necessary that it should be demonstrated and incontestable that they have acted under the influence of their opinions. Thus individuals who, on the occasion of political troubles gave themselves up either to the pillage of money or other movable objects, or to any other ordinary crime against social order, could only be considered as simple malefactors, whilst the pillage of arms (unless particular circumstances establish a contrary presumption) cannot be considered as other than a political crime." Men, who in times of disturbance act as common thieves, shall be punished as such. "The purely political convicts would themselves rightly repel such an association. Those condemned for political Press-crimes must naturally be classed in the category of political prisoners."

Custodia Honesta in Austria, Germany, and Holland.

In Austria, an enlightened spirit has long presided over the treatment of common criminals. Count Taaffe, of Irish ancestry, introduced the Irish Intermediate System, which prepared prisoners for liberty, by giving them increasing privileges. Instead of stupefying them by solitary confinement, he sanctioned snuff, smoking, and the reading of newspapers (1867), under certain conditions, and this proved a magic aid to discipline. It is hardly necessary to add that, as appears by an official document, "political prisoners are absolved from wearing prison clothes, which last favour is also granted to persons who suffer simple imprisonment." They may pay for their food and choose their own occupations. They saw their friends, and had books, &c. In Germany, as was pointed out by Dr. Marquardsen, the code adopted in 1869 recognised the same generous system. Those assigned to *custodia honesta* by the judge were kept apart in a fortress or elsewhere, and not required to work. This "honourable custody" means simple detention, such as was accorded to the United Irish prisoners of Fort George in 1798. Mr. Pols, at the International Prisons Conference of 1872, approving of the principle of assigning certain prisoners, including political offenders, to *custodia honesta*, stated that in most countries where new penal codes had been framed, such kind of honourable custody had been adopted.

In Italy.

Of old, Howard found the prisons of Italy occupying the foremost rank. The public is apt to overlook this fact, remembering only the fervour of Gladstone's denunciation of the treatment of political prisoners in Naples. But the new penal codes stand superior to such criticism. Political prisoners come into the category of those subject to the penalty of "relegazione," described as simple detention in a fortress. These prisoners are divided into two classes. To the first are assigned persons condemned for offences against the State: the second includes all others condemned to this kind of imprisonment. Prisoners of the first class have special privileges, they wear their own clothes, merely bearing a number on the arm, they may work or not, at pleasure, &c.

In Russia.

The excesses of police rule appear to have unduly darkened the Russian system of prison treatment as regards political offenders. Lansdell, Boulanger, and Kennan have borne testimony to a certain liberality. It is stated that their dietary is so liberal that they can partly support their wives and children with the surplus. The law allows the latter to settle near the prisons, and to see the prisoners, in the parlour, twice or thrice a week. Political prisoners are taken to their place of punishment apart from other prisoners, it is stated, and allowed to wear their own dress, to possess books and furniture, and to have their families residing near them or with them. Mr. Lansdell states (1882) that he saw a Nihilist, concerned in an attempt on the late Emperor's life, "confined, but only to the neighbourhood," he was "dressed," adds this author, "if I remember rightly, in a tweed suit, looking highly presentable," and though condemned to the mines, not soiling his fingers with work.

Conclusion.

To these evidences should be added the unanimous condemnation of the treatment as felons of the later Irish political prisoners pronounced by prominent statesmen of the United States, Canada, and Australia. As a final warning, it should be borne in mind that political offenders suffer more by imprisonment than common criminals, and short-sentence offenders more than long. This grave fact is usually overlooked or ignored, because the illness and deaths occur subsequent to release, and the prison does not get the blame. But Dr. Joret, a French authority, has rightly said: "We must not dissimulate the fact, whatever be the mode of imprisonment adopted, there will result some trouble to the prisoner, with less or more danger to his health."

MRS. PETHICK LAWRENCE'S APPEAL.

Court Refuses to Quash Conviction.

By a curious coincidence, on the very day (Tuesday last) that the conspiracy charge against Mrs. Pethick Lawrence was laid before the Grand Jury at the Old Bailey by the Recorder in opening the Sessions, another case relating to Mrs. Lawrence was being heard and decided at the Law Courts.

Our readers will remember that in November last Mrs. Lawrence was tried and convicted at Bow Street by Mr. Marsham and sentenced to one month's imprisonment. The case was heard twice, the first time the principal witness against her was not sworn; the second time this essential was complied with. Mrs. Lawrence at once moved to quash the conviction on the ground of the irregularity of the proceedings, and the first step was taken in the Divisional Court on December 1 in applying for a certiorari to quash the conviction. (See *VOTES FOR WOMEN*, December 8.) A rule nisi was granted. That is to say, the Divisional Court decided that a prima facie case had been made out by Mrs. Lawrence's counsel (Mr. Henle), and that unless the magistrate could show cause to the contrary, the conviction would be quashed.

On Tuesday last the magistrate's case was placed before the Divisional Court, and the Judges decided against Mrs. Lawrence. The grounds for this judgment given by the Lord Chief Justice were that Mrs. Lawrence could not be said to be "in peril" on the first hearing owing to its irregularity. If this view is sound law, it seems to open up the way to very dangerous abuse and further infringement of the liberty of the subject, for in an irregular trial the defendant may be called upon to lay his defence before the court, and then find himself subsequently subject to a retrial with the prosecution in possession of his line of defence. The Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Avory both seemed to some extent to realise this, and attempted to meet it by confining their judgment to the incidents of the particular case before the court. But is it really possible to decide a principle in a particular case and then to say that that principle cannot be applied in other cases whose details are different?

The case was heard before a Divisional Court of the King's Bench Division, consisting of the Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Pickford, and Mr. Justice Avory. The case was cited as that of the King v. Marsham (ex parte Mrs. E. Pethick Lawrence). Mr. A. H. Bodkin appeared to contest the rule, and Mr. Henle supported it.

The Magistrate's Case.

Mr. Bodkin said that the point involved was whether the magistrate, during the same day on which he had held his petty sessions, if he found that there had been an informality in the hearing of a case, had a legal right and jurisdiction to correct that informality by re-hearing the case, and giving the defendant the fullest opportunity, as she would have had on the first hearing, to defend herself. The facts were that on November 22 there were some 200 ladies in custody, and on November 23 Bow Street, no doubt, was very busily occupied in dealing with them. One of the ladies was the present defendant, and she was charged with the two offences of obstructing the police and assaulting Wiles. Two constables gave evidence, the first one, Wiles, through some inadvertence, no doubt due to the particular pressure upon that day, not upon oath. The second constable was duly sworn, and spoke to the circumstances of the assault. The lady cross-examined both the officers, and made a statement in her defence, electing to call no witnesses. The magistrate said that he believed the officers, and convicted her. Shortly after, while some other case was being disposed of, a memorandum from Miss Pankhurst reached Mr. Muskett, the solicitor representing the police, stating that Constable Wiles had not been sworn. Mr. Muskett made inquiries, and the officer was sent for. The magistrate said he would take the case again after the luncheon adjournment, and about an hour and a half after the first hearing the case began again. The officers were duly sworn, and repeated their evidence from the commencement. They were cross-examined by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, who made her defence, and called, as she had not done at the first hearing, three witnesses to the facts of the case. The magistrate, in his affidavit, said that, quite independently of the first hearing, he arrived at the same conclusion, and that the witnesses for the defence did not influence his mind adversely to the evidence of the constables, and he imposed the same sentence.

Mr. Henle pointed out that both convictions were in question under the rule. The grounds of the rule were:

1. That the conviction is bad, and that the material witness made a statement without being sworn.
2. That the conviction is bad, and that the prosecutrix at the time of her conviction had previously been in peril in respect of the same offence.
3. That the magistrate had no jurisdiction to try the case.

Mr. Bodkin explained that at the end of the first hearing a mere note of the decision was taken in the Clerk's book and put upon the charge-sheet. In the course

of the day it would be signed by the magistrate. In this instance, no formal conviction based upon the first hearing was ever drawn up at all.

Mr. Marsham, in the course of his affidavit, which was read by Mr. Bodkin, stated that shortly after the disposal of the case, and during the same sitting, before any conviction had been drawn up in respect of the decision, he was informed that Wiles had not been sworn. Many women were charged before him for offences involving disorderly conduct, and he sat throughout the entire day for the purpose of dealing with as many of such charges as possible. Before any conviction was drawn up, therefore, he proceeded to re-hear the case. Mr. Marsham proceeded that he had been a magistrate, sitting at various courts in London, for thirty-two years. Not infrequently applications were made to him and to his colleagues on behalf of persons whom they had dealt with, with a view of inducing them to reopen the case, so that the convicted person might be professionally represented or that witnesses might be called in defence. On many occasions he had allowed such cases to be reopened, and had altered, on such further facts or representations, the decisions he had arrived at originally. It was, he said, the practice of Metropolitan magistrates so to act so long as the request that they should do so were made on the same day. He submitted that his sessions lasted each day.

Mr. Bodkin suggested that where there had been an established practice it rather pointed to a legal origin. The paragraph was inserted in the affidavit with the object of showing what the practice of the Courts was.

Mr. Justice Pickford: For the purpose of showing that nothing exceptional has been done.

The Lord Chief Justice: And that this lady had not been treated in a harsher way than anybody else—rather the contrary.

Mr. Bodkin cited cases in support of his submission.

Mr. Justice Avory said that if the lady was never in peril of being convicted, she could not successfully plead that she was being tried twice for the same offence.

Mr. Bodkin: That was the proposition I was going to submit.

Mr. Justice Avory: "In peril" means being in peril of being legally convicted. She was never in peril of being legally convicted.

Resuming his argument, Mr. Bodkin submitted that during the same session the magistrate was a court fully constituted in all its relations, and ought, if an informality had been brought to his notice, to correct it. Secondly, it was his contention that this lady, having been dealt with without proper testimony being before the Court on which it could act, was not legally "in peril."

The Lord Chief Justice: You mean improper testimony. There was some proper testimony.

Mr. Bodkin formally asked that the rule should be discharged.

Mr. Henle's Reply.

Mr. Henle said that in approaching the propositions of Mr. Bodkin there were two points he had to discuss. One related to the jurisdiction and power of the magistrate, and the other was the question whether or not Mrs. Lawrence was, within the meaning of the rule laid down by that Court, at any time in peril. All the cases cited by Mr. Bodkin related to a question he would not dispute; that was to say, the power of the magistrate during a session to alter his judgment upon the case. He was not going to attempt to dispute that proposition, as it was far too familiar to all who practised at that Court. What he would say was that neither under the wording of the section, nor by any authority known to law, was it possible for a magistrate to retry a case. If the magistrate in this case had called Mrs. Lawrence before him, and had stated that this particular constable had not been sworn, and that in the circumstances he ought to be sworn again, it might be that he would have justified his action. He submitted that the magistrate wrongly took the course of retrying the case. It might be that the course the magistrate followed did no harm from the point of view of the merits of the case, but at the same time, if it were looked upon in a general light it might open the

door to the gravest abuses. If it were said that during the same session a magistrate could re-hear a case if a prosecution, after a case had been heard, said that they had further evidence, there could be no reason why the magistrate should not rehear the case. Very serious injustice might be done in consequence, and in sanctioning such a procedure the Court would be admitting something which would be extremely dangerous, and which would be in opposition to the principle of the law which protected to that extent the liberty of the subject and of the accused.

Mr. Justice Avory suggested that if there had been no second hearing, and the defendant had moved for a certiorari, the Court would have been obliged to quash the conviction, on the ground that it was an illegal conviction.

Mr. Henle agreed.

Mr. Justice Avory: No conviction can legally take place except upon sworn testimony. If the conviction was liable to be quashed upon the ground that it was illegal, how is it any bar to subsequent conviction?

Mr. Henle said he conceived that the word peril did not in itself mean that there had been real danger of being convicted. He supposed that the presumption of law was that there was no real danger of conviction for an innocent person. (Laughter.)

Mr. Justice Avory: With some counsel perhaps he would be in real danger; with others he would not. (Loud laughter.)

Mr. Henle observed that it was quite true that if the lady had been convicted, and the conviction had remained where it was at the end of the first trial, it could have been quashed. The proceedings were not nullified, for the reason that the magistrate, if he had chosen, could have corrected the informality in a perfectly proper way. It was simply because the magistrate chose to take the course he did that the conviction, in his submission, was a wrong one. The test was, "Could the magistrate on the proceedings before him in case one have so corrected these proceedings as to have convicted Mrs. Lawrence and to have made that conviction good?" If the answer was in the affirmative, he submitted that Mrs. Lawrence had been in peril, and that, having been in peril, she could not be put in peril a second time, even if it were on the same day. Technically there was no warrant, either in the common law, or still less in the Summary Jurisdiction Act, for a magistrate to try a case he had once heard. The magistrate had ample powers without rehearing the case to have put the case in such proper order as to have made a conviction which would have been wholly unassailable. But he adopted a course which was wholly beyond his powers, and under the circumstances the conviction ought to be quashed.

The Judgment.

The Lord Chief Justice, in giving judgment, said he thought the rule ought to be discharged. The argument had ranged over a wide range of points; but he did not intend to say anything in his judgment in reference to the practice of doing certain things during the same day. He was going to base his reasons for the discharge of the rule upon the single point that there was before the same magistrate and upon the same day that which was a mis-trial, that which would have compelled any Court to quash the conviction on the ground stated. That being so, and there being a mis-trial, it could not properly be said that the present appellant was in peril. The Lord Chief Justice having reviewed the facts, said that in his judgment the magistrate, finding out that in the hearing just concluded he had before him evidence which was not admissible, did not determine the case properly, and was entitled in the exercise of his jurisdiction to have the case heard properly. In his opinion, therefore, the rule should be discharged.

Mr. Justice Pickford agreed.

Mr. Justice Avory agreed, and added that he especially desired to give no decision on the point raised upon the general jurisdiction of magistrates to rehear cases upon the same day. The substantial and real ground upon which the Court was asked to set aside the conviction was the second ground in the rule, viz., that the conviction was bad in that the prosecutrix had previously been put in peril in respect of the same offence.

If proceedings had been taken, the first judgment, if in fact there ever was one, must have been reversed. It would have been quashed on certiorari as having been a judgment given upon evidence which was not sworn. Consequently the defendant was not in peril, and was not in a position on the second hearing to take exception to the jurisdiction of the magistrate.

Mr. Bodkin asked for costs, which were allowed.

At the close of the proceedings, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, who had been present in accordance with her recognizances, left the Court with her husband.

THE CONSPIRACY CHARGE.

Alderman Sir Thomas B. Crosby (the Lord Mayor) opened the April sessions at the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday, April 23.

There were 115 cases on the list.

The Recorder, in the course of his charge to the Grand Jury, said there was one case which was not of a very common character, although it was of some public importance. The accused were Frederick Pethick Lawrence, Emmeline Pethick Lawrence, and Emmeline Pankhurst, and they were charged with conspiring, with other persons, to commit damage to certain property in Westminster and other parts of London, and to incite persons to commit the damage. The case arose out of the lamentable circumstances which were probably in the memory of the grand jurors, in connection with the breaking of the windows of tradespeople, with stones and other implements. The prosecution alleged that the damage done amounted to many thousands of pounds, and that it was done in consequence of an antecedent agreement with the accused, who were members of an organisation known as the Women's Social and Political Union. The object of this union was supposed to be to obtain votes for women at Parliamentary elections. Whether the breaking of the windows of inoffensive people was at all likely to advance that object was a matter upon which there might be many opinions. The prosecution, by a very large number of witnesses—120—and a large mass of documentary evidence, sought to show that the accused were engaged in organising a carefully-planned attack on shop windows, with a view to bringing pressure upon the Government to introduce a Bill in the present session of Parliament giving women the vote. The breaking of windows intentionally, under any circumstances, was an unlawful act, and the conspiracy to commit the offence made those engaged in it responsible in law. If the grand jury were of opinion that a prima facie case had been made out against the accused they ought not to hesitate to find a true bill, and the case could then be tried, and any defence to be advanced would be heard.

A QUESTION.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, April 23, Mr. Kellaway (Bedford, Min.) asked the Attorney-General if the Government had offered to withdraw the prosecution for conspiracy of certain members of the Women's Social and Political Union if those members undertook to cease their militant campaign.

The Attorney-General (Sir Rufus Isaacs).

—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. Kellaway.—Can the right hon. gentleman give us an assurance that the Government has no intention of taking such action.

The Attorney-General.—There is no intention of any such action. (Cheers.)

SESSION PRISONERS' APPEAL.

Two cases in which suffragist prisoners appealed against their sentences on points of law were heard before Justices Lawrence, Pickford, and Avory on Monday last. Miss Maud Joachim, sentenced to six months' imprisonment, appealed against the conviction. Mr. Blanco White said that his client was charged along with a Miss Fergus with breaking windows in Regent Street. There was no evidence of conspiracy, and his client denied all knowledge of Miss Fergus's intentions.

Mr. Justice Lawrence, in delivering judgment, said counsel's contention was that Miss Joachim was not liable, because she did not know that Miss Fergus had broken immediately before a larger window. If, in point of fact, they were acting in concert by the direction or suggestion of a person whose orders they took in the matter, they were equally guilty of the offence, although they had no knowledge of one another, and had no direct communication with each other. The appeal was accordingly dismissed.

Miss Mary Hewitt, sentenced to four months' imprisonment, also appealed. Mr. G. R. Blanco White, who appeared for appellant, said that his client was charged with having done damage to the extent of over £5. One witness, however, said he only saw her break one window; and if the latter was right the case was not one for the sessions, because the damage did not amount to £5. Continuing, he said he desired to call further evidence, as it had been ascertained that the amount of damage, allowing for the old glass, which could be re-used, was under £5.

The application was refused.

NEW READERS WANTED!

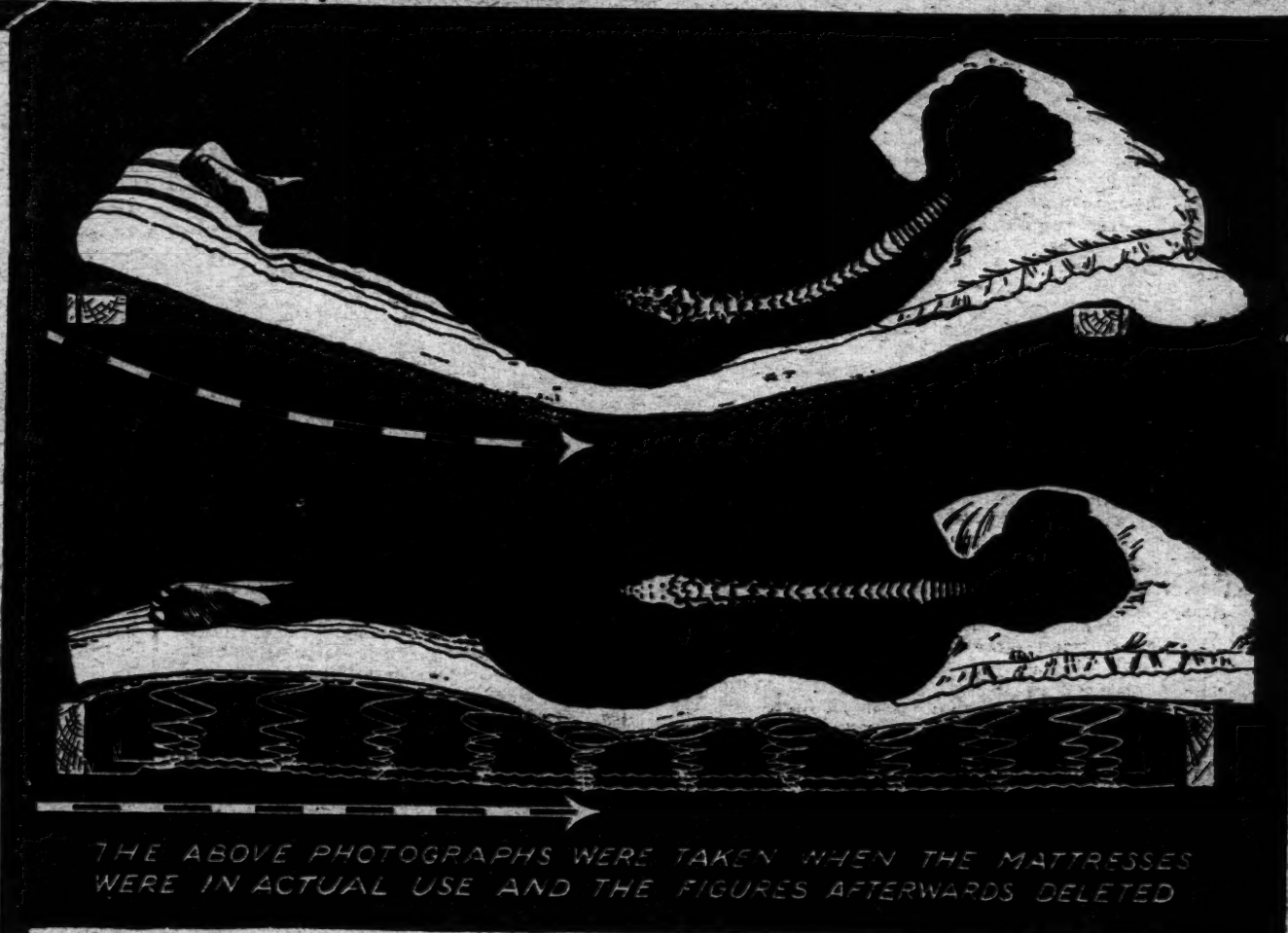
"Deeds, not words," is one of the mottoes of the W.S.P.U.; and at this moment the need for action is greater than ever it was—action in many directions, but chiefly in that of extending the knowledge of why women are in this fight and what it is that they are fighting for. The way to do this is by gaining an ever-increasing circle of new readers. Week by week the names come in—but we want more still! Our hearty congratulations to Miss Mary Taylor, who with Miss Ball is doing yeoman service in the Caterham district by holding open-air meetings at which *VOTES FOR WOMEN* finds a ready sale. Miss Taylor has also taken her dog-cart to Aylesbury, where the colours flew bravely and more papers were sold.

Previously acknowledged.....	715	Miss F. Levy	1	Miss Mary Taylor	1
Miss Dorothy Barton	1	Miss H. Gordon Liddle	1		
Miss Ferguson	1	Miss K. Manning	1		
O. M. Holt, Esq., K.O.	1	Miss Muriel Marden	1		
Miss E. Howard	1	Mrs. A. E. May	1		
Mrs. W. H. Horsely	1	Miss Mary Morris	1		
Miss Dorothy V. Hargood ..	1	Fran von den Steinen	1		
Miss E. Lester Jones	1	Miss E. Thompson	1		
Fran Erik Kronberg	1				
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				New readers who obtain their	382
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✻ WRITE FOR DEMONSTRATION CARD ✻

MR. STEAD'S PRISON TREATMENT.

Mr. W. T. Stead, who is among the dead heroes of the *Titanic* disaster, was not only one of the earliest supporters of the W.S.P.U. in London, but himself fought a brave fight on behalf of women. The story of his championship of young women and girls in connection with Mrs. Josephine Butler's campaign is well-known. To suffragists, at the present stage of the movement, the story of his prison treatment is of great interest. Mr. Stead was sentenced by Mr. Justice Lopes at the Central Criminal Court, on November 4, 1885, to three months' imprisonment, without hard labour. After a few days he was made by the Home Secretary, acting without communicating with the judge (see "My First Imprisonment"), a first-class misdemeanant, and he conducted his paper from his cell in Holloway Gaol.

Under the title, "My First Imprisonment, Holloway Gaol," Mr. Stead wrote in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of January 25, 1886:—

Here, as in an enchanted castle, jealously guarded by livery retainers, I was kept secure from the strife of tongues, and afforded the rare luxury of journalistic leisure. From the Governor, Colonel Milman, to the poor fellow who scrubbed out my room, everyone was as kind as could be. From all parts of the Empire, even from distant Fiji, rained down upon me every morning the benedictions of men and women who had felt in the midst of their life-long labours for the outcast the unexpected lift of the great outburst of compassion and indignation which followed the publication of the "Maiden Tribute." I had papers, books, letters, flowers—everything that heart could wish for. Twice a week my wife brought the sunlight of her presence into the pretty room, all hung round with Christmas greetings from absent friends, and twice a week she brought with her one of the children. On the day after Christmas the whole family came except the little two-year-old, and what high jinks we had in the old jail with all the bairns! The room was rather small for blind man's buff, but we managed it somehow, and never was there a merrier little party than that which met in Cell No. 2 on the ground floor of the east wing of Holloway Gaol, which was last Christmas in the occupation of a certain misdemeanant of the first division named Mr. Stead. Mr. Talbot came once a week, and I had visitors from my staff every other day. The magistrates placed a veto on the visits of all persons who had taken part in the recent agitation. If anyone wished to see me I had to submit his name to the Governor, who submitted it to the visiting magistrates, and when they gave it their sanction the person named was allowed to visit me, not in my room, but in the ordinary visiting cell, for an half an hour between 2 and 5. I interviewed Mr. T. P. O'Connor in Holloway Gaol as to the part which he had played in the General Election, but I did not see more than a half a dozen M.P.s and about half a dozen others altogether, excluding the regular weekly visitors. It is specially laid down in the rules for the guidance of misdemeanants in the first division that they may work at their trades, and I worked at mine all through my term. I got the newspapers every morning at the quarter past seven, and at 10 o'clock the messenger got his copy.

It was rather amusing to me to receive lamentations over the erratic course which the *Pall Mall Gazette* was taking "in the absence of my guiding hand," while the erratic articles complained of were in almost every case from my own pen. There was no restriction placed upon me as to what I wrote, with two exceptions. I was not to allude in any way to the discipline

of the gaol, or to any of the subjects connected with the new Crusade. I could publish what I pleased when I came out, but during my incarceration nothing was to appear from me in print that related, directly or indirectly, to my judge, my trial, to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, or to anything thereunto belonging. This gave me leisure to write a paper which I had long brooded over, on the gradual development of "Government by Journalism," together with some speculations as to the modifications necessary to enable the Editor to wield his sovereignty with greater knowledge and better credentials than he can boast of at present. Of course I was cut off from many of my best friends, but they wrote constantly, and although I lost their company, I gained time to do work that they all wanted to have done. Altogether I can best sum up my estimate of the "punishment" inflicted on a first class misdemeanant at Holloway by saying that if ever I am in a position to ask a guerdon from my country for my profession, I will humbly petition the powers that be to permit any editor of a daily newspaper to convert himself into a first class misdemeanant at will for terms of one, two, or three months. It is a double cell, just like a college room. I had the same cell as Mr. Yates, of whom tradition still lingers in the gaol. I was well supplied with flowers and fruit. I got some lovely boxes of flowers from the South of France, bunches of fragrant violets from Glasgow. Pots of lilies of the valley, forced into premature bloom, sweetened and gay tulips and graceful cyclamen brightened the cell. At Christmas time the walls were bright with the holly berries.

In the *Pall Mall Gazette* of January 27, 1886, Mr. Stead wrote:—

I could take exercise when I pleased, as long as I pleased, in the day time, but always in one appointed place—round and round the prison hospital. At Holloway I paid 6s. a week for the rent of my room, 3s. 6d. a week for service, and 2s. 6d. a week I believe for something else—possibly fire and gas. I had my own little kettle, and made my own tea. Fresh eggs were sent me by some unknown benefactor in Dunville, in Ireland, and anything in the shape of food was ordered outside. The hours were the same as at Coldbath, but instead of planks I had a comfortable bed. I was allowed my own hearthrug and easy chairs, as well as a writing desk and a cosy little tea-table. At a quarter to six I rose and made my bed, and dressed, then shook and rolled up the hearthrugs and matting, and set to work. At half-past six the surety came in, lit the fire, washed up the crockery, and generally put things to rights.

DEMONSTRATION IN HYDE PARK.

Thousands of men and women assembled in Hyde Park last Sunday afternoon to protest "against the unjust sentences passed on Englishwomen now in prison, and the brutality of the forcible feeding they are undergoing," and to demand the immediate release of the prisoners. The demonstration was organised by members of the Church League for Woman Suffrage, the Women's Freedom League, the Women's Tax Resistance League, the Women Writers' Suffrage League, the Men's Political Union, the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, the Catholic League for Women's Suffrage, the Women's Group of Fabians, the New Constitutional Society for Woman Suffrage, and the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage. A form of petition to the Home Secretary asking for serious re-consideration of the sentences, and asking for application of Rule 243a was circulated.

OUR POST BOX.

TREATMENT OF SUFFRAGIST PRISONERS.

To the Editors of *VOTES FOR WOMEN*.

Dear Editors,—Many letters have appeared in the Press relating to the sentences which have been passed on Suffragist offenders, but I think that the legal position of these offenders has not been sufficiently brought out. My object is to show that they are entitled to political treatment, not as a privilege, but as a measure of justice. For this purpose I would submit three propositions: (1) That the law has expressly recognised political offences; (2) that the suffragist prisoners are political offenders; and (3) that they are entitled to political treatment.

(1) The Extradition Act, 1870, Sec. 3, provides that "a fugitive criminal shall not be surrendered if the offence in respect of which his surrender is demanded is one of a political character." (It may be interesting to recall that it was largely through the influence of J. S. Mill that the above provision was inserted in the Act, as he tells us in that part of his autobiography which deals with his Parliamentary activities.)

Again, section is a typical political offence, and the Prison Act, 1877, Sec. 40, provides that a person convicted of sedition or seditious libel must (not may) be treated as a misdemeanant of the first class.

Unquestionably, then, the Law does recognise political offences.

(2) Are the Acts of the suffragists "offences of a political character"?

The answer can be found in the case of *In re Castioni*, reported in 1891, 1 Q.B., 149. In that case, the Court was considering the meaning of Sec. 3 of the Extradition Act, 1870, already cited, and held that an offence is political if "it is incidental to and forms part of political disturbances." Mr. Justice Denman says, p. 159, "The question really is whether upon the facts it is clear that the man was acting as one of a number of persons engaged in acts of violence of a political character with a political object, and as part of a political movement and rising in which he is taking part." If so, the offence is political, but if the offender's motive is to satisfy private spite or to gain some personal end it is an ordinary offence. He also says, p. 158, that the fact that the Act was not "a wise Act, in the sense of being an Act which the man who did it would have been wise in doing, with the view of promoting the cause in which he was engaged" does not prevent the offence from being a political one. And in discussing the object with which the prisoner in that case had acted, he says, p. 159, "The presumption is . . . (we cannot be absolutely certain about anything as to men's motives)."

In that case the Court, although they thought that the prisoner had shot dead a member of a foreign government, refused to surrender the fugitive to his country, and set him at liberty on the sole ground that his offence (if any) was political.

It is clear, then, that the question whether an offence is political depends on the motive of the offender.

What, then, were the motives of the suffragist prisoners? They told us that their motive was to promote a political change which they conscientiously believed will be of far-reaching importance to the welfare of their country. These ladies are truthful, and bear the highest personal characters. Their whole education and upbringing pre-disposes them to be law abiding subjects. Their offence has involved loss of liberty and hardships which, contrasted with their ordinary mode of life, they know they will feel with a severity out of all proportion to ordinary offenders of the criminal class.

Every selfish and personal motive would restrain their actions.

Obviously, then, their offences are of a political character, in the sense in which these words are used in the Act of 1870; and it is unnecessary to labour this point.

(3) Are they entitled to political treatment? Now the Court has full power under the Prison Act, 1898, Section 6, to send any political offender not sentenced to hard labour (and hard labour never need be imposed) into the first division or the second division.

We have seen that the Act of 1877 makes it obligatory to send persons convicted of sedition or seditious libel into the first class (now merged into the first division, established by the Act of 1898); that sedition is a political offence, and one, moreover, of which are often far more serious than the damage done by the Suffragists—perhaps civil war! That the Law recognises that other offences (including homicide) may be political.

Surely, then, any offender who satisfies the Court that his offence is political, and that, so far from acting from any personal or selfish motive, he has acted contrary to his own interest, and for what he conscientiously believes (rightly or wrongly) to be the welfare of the State—surely such an offender is entitled, a fortiori, to the same treatment as one convicted of sedition.—Yours, &c.,

A. P. SPANTON.

15, New Broad Street, London, E.C.

A GENEROUS OFFER.

To the Editors of *VOTES FOR WOMEN*.

Dear Editors,—It has occurred to me that suburban and country station cab-drivers are a class of men with plenty of spare time for reading. What better literature could they have to improve their outlook on things in general, and the woman's movement in particular, than our paper? Most stations with cab-ranks have shelters at which newspapers can doubtless be delivered. If you would print my letter some of your readers might send addresses to which you could post the paper, and others would perhaps help with promises of money. I shall be very glad to give 3s. a week for six months to be spent in this way.—Yours, &c.,

Cannes, April 15. ETHEL J. BLYTH.

[Responses to this letter should be addressed to "The Woman's Press," 156, Charing Cross Road, W.C.]

FROM A PAPER SELLER.

To the Editors of *VOTES FOR WOMEN*.

Dear Editors,—I wish to thank a lady who the other Saturday, when I was selling *VOTES FOR WOMEN* at Charing Cross, presented me with some lovely roses. I thought it was such a beautiful act, and it helped me to stay a good deal longer selling the paper. It would take pages to tell of all the kindnesses I have received while doing that work.—Yours, &c.,

K. BOVIS.

CHIVALRY.

To the Editors of *VOTES FOR WOMEN*.

Dear Editors,—A correspondent writing in the *Standard* of April 18 says: "It will be a bad world when the equality of the Suffragists prevails and man and woman make a dash for the boats together." This implies that the granting of the franchise to women will make man indifferent about succouring women in the hour of peril. Does this correspondent really believe this? Chivalry, in the rare cases where it really exists, will not be lost by the granting of the vote to women. If chivalry hangs on so slender a thread as that, that the granting of the franchise will snap it, then chivalry is a superficial sham, and women will be well quit of it; such a theory is an insult to men who are men. "Women and children first" is an unwritten law in most civilized countries, and quite independent of chivalry, and this principle involves the bounden duty of every brave man, any other action is unthinkable. It is the discipline and courage calmly to face death that inspires one's intense admiration, for, as Kipling says of the sinking troopship: "To stand and be still, to the Birkenhead drill, is a damn tough bullet to chew."

Will the women who possess the vote in other countries lose men's help, and willing sacrifice, in the hour of danger, and at the gate of Death? Every thinking and unprejudiced man knows that the theory is false and an insult to all good men; it is just one more anti-suffrage bogey. The sacrifice for women and children is every brave and noble man's birthright.—Yours, &c.,

POYNIZ WRIGHT.

Weekday Cross, Nottingham, April 19, 1912.

We have been asked to insert the following copy of a letter sent by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst to the *Times*:—

THE WOMEN FIRST.

I reluctantly ask the hospitality of your columns for the purpose of making a personal explanation. Much unnecessary prominence is being given to a statement which I am supposed to have made in regard to the awful *Titanic* disaster which has plunged so many families into mourning. I happened to be in the office of the Women's Social and Political Union when I was told that a Press representative wished to see me. Had I known that I was to be interviewed on the subject of the *Titanic* I should have refused to see him. I protested, as I wish to do now, that the question as to how the unfortunate people on board the ship behaved had nothing whatever to do with votes for women. Of course, I expressed, as we all must, my admiration for the great courage and self-control which seems to have been exercised by all concerned as well as for the self-sacrifice shown by those who stood aside that others might be saved. But whilst protesting against being interviewed on the subject at all, I pointed out that the considerate rule on board ship that children and women shall be saved first has been made, not because children and women have no votes, but because they are supposed to be physically weaker than men.

I also said that the Board of Trade appeared to me to be seriously to blame in not having brought their safety regulations up-to-date.

Words are too poor to express the deep sympathy which we must all feel for those who have suffered through this awful shipwreck, and, indeed, expressions of sympathy can do nothing to allay their sorrow. But we, as citizens of this country, owe it to those who have lost their lives, and those whom we have more occasion to pity, who have lost those who are dear to them, to see to it that nothing is left undone to prevent another such disaster.—Yours, &c.,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Cambridge Studios, Linden Gardens, Bayswater, April 19, 1912.

Several letters from Suffragist members and the N.U.W. are held over for want of space.



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RESULT.

Result in 1910:—Captain J. O. Morrison (U.), 6,274; D. Stewart Smith, K.C. (L.), 4,804. Unionist majority, 1,470.

“Short-sighted persons have criticised them because they are opposing, in the person of Mr. Dobson, a friend of women's suffrage. It may be quite true that this gentleman has promised support if elected. So have hundreds of other Liberal candidates, who, when elected, have conveniently forgotten their pledges. Of course, Mr. Dobson may be an exception to the Liberal rule; we hope he may. But the W.S.P.U. have been tricked and deceived so often that it has lost that child-like faith which characterises so many working men in Liberal election pledges. It knows that Mr. Dobson's return will not help the cause of the women one jot. It knows that if the Liberal Members of Parliament had fulfilled their promises the suffrage for women would have long since been an accomplished fact. The Women's Social and Political Union, in opposing Mr. Dobson, is opposing the Liberal Party Machine. If six by-elections were to take place at

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN PORTUGAL.

- (1) Free disposal of their own salary for women.
- (2) Their right to be witness to a testament, and to bail.
- (3) Free disposal of their property.
- (4) Equal rights over the children with the father.
- (5) Claim to indemnity in case of breach of promise of marriage.

"SAINT CHRISTABEL."

Letters are being received by the Hon. Sec., the W.S.P.U., 4, Clement's Inn, enclosing orders for hand-painted copies of the charming *Bystander* picture, reproduced in VOTES FOR WOMEN on March 29. These should be addressed to the Advertiser, Box 312, c/o VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

SPEAKERS' CLASS.

Hon. Elocution Mistress—Miss Rosa Leo,
45, Ashworth Mansions, Elgin Avenue, W.
Hon. Secretary—Miss Hale, 4, Clement's
Inn, W.C.

Those who can speak will find opportunities at every turn of doing invaluable work for the cause. In the Suffrage campaign, speech is golden, and should be cultivated by everyone. An excellent means of practice in speaking is offered to W.S.P.U. members in the Speakers' Class, which is under the able direction of Miss Leo. Join without delay, and when you are trained the Union will find plenty of work for you in connection with the summer campaign.

This class will be resumed to-night (Friday) at 7.45 in Room 72 of Clement's Inn, when the subject will be the Latest Developments in the Movement." Miss Leo's private classes are held, by kind permission of Mrs. Ayton, at 41, Norfolk Square, W., on Saturdays at 4 p.m. All communications concerning these should be addressed to Miss Leo, and those concerning the public classes to Miss Hale. It must be clearly understood that both these classes are open to members of the W.S.P.U. only.

Day	Time	Location	Program	Time
April, Friday, 25	4.45	4, Clement's Inn, W.C.	Speakers' Class. Miss Rosa Leo	7.45 p.m.
	5.15	Croydon, Katherine Street	Mr. Thornton Jones. Chair: Miss Leslie Hall	8 p.m.
	5.45	Fulham, 905, Fulham Road	Annual Members' Meeting and Social Dr. F. Ede. Chair: Mrs. Finley Smith	7 p.m. 8 p.m.
	6.15	Harrow Road, Prince of Wales	Miss Richard, Miss Smyth	8 p.m.
	6.45	Harringay, Burgoyne Road	Miss Bonwick, B.A. Chair: Mrs. Macnamara	8 p.m.
	7.15	Streatham Common, 54, Baldry Gardens	Drawing-room Meeting, the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield. Chair: Mrs. Pilcher. Hostess: Mrs. Newth	7.45 p.m. 4.30 p.m.
	7.45	Wimbledon, 1, St. Mary's Road	Members' Tea	8 p.m.
	8.15	Chiswick, Duke's Road	Miss Davies	8 p.m.
	8.45	Clapham, Morris Hall, North Street	Public Sale	11.15 a.m.
	9.15	Hampton, 178, Finchley Road	Poster Parade	7.30 p.m.
Saturday, 27	9.45	Hamstead Road, Cobden's Statue	Miss Feek. Chair: Miss Pease	8 p.m.
	10.15	Harlesden, Manor Park Road	Miss Bonwick, B.A.	8 p.m.
	10.45	Ilford, Balfour Road	Miss Meakin, Miss Joan Dugdale	8 p.m.
	11.15	Kilburn, Birkington Road	Mr. A. U. G. Jamrach. Chair: Mrs. Dacre Fox	11.30 a.m. 3 p.m.
	11.45	Kingston, Coronation Stone	Jumble Sale	3.45 p.m.
	12.15	Kingston, 13, Union Street, Arcade	Winters' Rally	8 p.m.
	12.45	Lewisham, 3A, Loeppit Vale	Miss Wyatt, Miss Giffitt	7.30 p.m.
	1.15	New Barnet, The Triangle	Welcome to released Prisoner, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Lady Stout	7.30 p.m.
	1.45	Palmer's Green, St. John's Hall	Miss D. Gibbs	8 p.m.
	2.15	Walthamstow, Church Hill	Miss Marie Naylor	7.30 p.m.
Sunday, 28	2.45	Willesden Green Library	Miss Agnes Kelly	3 p.m.
	3.15	Wimbledon Broadway	Mr. J. Y. Kennedy. Chair: Miss Till	3 p.m.
	3.45	Clapham Common	Miss Eleanor Wyatt	11.30 a.m.
	4.15	Easing Common	Mrs. Lamartine Yates. Chair: Mr. Victor Duval	3 p.m.
	4.45	Hamstead Heath, Flagstaff	Miss Brackenbury	3 p.m.
	5.15	Hyde Park, W.	Miss Nancy Lightman. Chair: Mrs. Hut	3 p.m.
	5.45	Streatham Common	Miss Bonwick, B.A.	8 p.m.
	6.15	Wimbledon Common	Poster Parade	11.15 a.m.
	6.45	Fulham, Munster Road	Rev. Percy Denney, Miss Abadam, Dr. H. Hanson, Dr. L. Fairfield	8.15 p.m.
	7.15	Hamstead, 178, Finchley Road	Chair: Miss Winifred Mayo	7 p.m.
Monday, 29	7.45	Hamstead, 178, Finchley Road	Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Gibbs	7.30 p.m.
	8.15	Hamstead, 178, Finchley Road	Members' At Home. Hostess: Mrs. Head	7.30 p.m.
	8.45	Kensal Rise, Harvist Road Schools	Mrs. Lamartine Yates. Chair: Mr. Mark W. Iles	7.30 p.m.
	9.15	Kingston	Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss G. Brackenbury. Chair: Miss Rachel Ede. B.S.C.	3 p.m.
	9.45	Lewisham, The Priory, High Street	Miss Kinkaid, Miss Burton	8 p.m.
	10.15	London Pavillion, Piccadilly Circus, W.	Working Party	3.5 p.m.
	10.45	Edgware Road, Nutford Place	Miss Jacobs. Chair: Mrs. W. Ball	8 p.m.
	11.15	Hamstead, 178, Finchley Road	Preside Talks	8 p.m.
	11.45	Lambeth, Angell Road	Miss Jacobs	8 p.m.
	12.15	Palmer's Green, 5, Stonard Road	Miss Nina Sheppard, Miss Leslie Hall	7.30 p.m.
Tuesday, 30	12.45	Stratford, The Grove		7.30 p.m.
	1.15	Thornton Heath Clock		
	1.45	Wimbledon Park, Melrose Avenue		
	2.15	Barnet, Church Parlour, Ewan Hall	Miss Spanton, Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson	8 p.m.
	2.45	Barnet, Church Parlour, Ewan Hall	Miss Haslam	8 p.m.
	3.15	Camden Town, Cobden Statue	Mrs. Jacobs, Miss Rogers	7.30 p.m.
	3.45	Hornsey High Street, The Fountain	Miss Bonwick, B.A., Mrs. Barfield	—
	4.15	Islington, Highbury Corner	Miss Gilliat. Chair: Miss Meakin	8 p.m.
	4.45	Kilburn, St. Anne's Hall, Salisbury Road	Miss Abadam, Mr. Joseph Clayton	—
	5.15	Lambeth, 128, Brixton Road (entrance St. Anne's Road)	Chair: Mrs. A. J. Webbe	
Wednesday, 1	5.45	Croydon, 5, Sydenham Road	Office opening	7.30 p.m.
	6.15	Paddington, 52, Praed Street, W.	Mrs. Cecil Chapman. Chair: Miss Leslie Hall	8 p.m.
	6.45	Radlett, London House	Mr. C. Malon, The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield	8.15 p.m.
	7.15	Floane Square	Members' Social	8 p.m.
	7.45	Stainway Hall, Lower Seymour Street, Portman Square, W.	Dr. Letitia Fairfield, Mrs. Hazel...	8 p.m.
	8.15	Wimbledon Station	Welcome to Released Prisoner	
	8.45	4, Clement's Inn, W.C.	Speakers' Class. Miss Rosa Leo	7.45 p.m.
	9.15	Croydon, Katherine Street	Mr. F. Medwin. Chair: Miss G. Hardy	8 p.m.
	9.45	Harrow Road, Prince of Wales	Miss Myers, Miss Wilson	8 p.m.
	10.15	Putney, Montserrat Road	Miss Gilliat	8 p.m.
Thursday, 2	10.45	Tooting Graveney, 23, Vant Road	Drawing-room Meeting	8 p.m.
	11.15			
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A centre stratum of fine horse-hair gives just that amount of buoyancy to the outer casing of soft fleecy white wool which is required to render this the most delightful form of bed imaginable—restful and resilient. In Heal mattresses the strength of the hair is preserved by being carefully “teased” by hand—not broken short by machinery. A “French” Mattress 3ft. wide costs from 33s. upwards.

A BOOKLET ON "BEDDING" WILL BE SENT FREE ON APPLICATION TO ALL "VOTES FOR WOMEN" READERS.

HEAL & SON

TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD W

“BE BRITISH!”

The following examples of courage are taken from the *Daily Telegraph* correspondent's account (April 22) of the wreck of the *Titanic* :—

Instances accumulate here (New York) that womanhood will never find anything for which it need blush in the Titanic disaster. Every virtue shown by the men had its duplicate many times in the women, and the manifestations are numerous. I collected to-day from the survivors enough evidence to prove that if bravery is essential to suffrage, many women who landed from the Carpathia on Thursday should have not one vote, but a dozen.

The world now knows of the devotion of Mrs. Isidor Strauss, who would not forsake her husband, and likewise of Mrs. Allison, of Montreal, who was joined by her daughter.

"I won't go without you," said Mrs. Strauss to her husband, and she resolutely fought off the efforts of the crew to put her into a boat. "No," said Mrs. Allison bravely, and she eluded those who would have saved her and her daughter.

The heroism of Edith Evans, who gave up her own life that another might be saved, stands out conspicuously. Miss Evans was nearly thirty years old, and independently well-to-do, she spent much of her time in travel. She was a passenger on the Titanic, travelling with her aunts, Mrs. Cornell, Mrs. Appleton, and Mrs. Brown. The signal came for the women and children to go, and Mrs. Cornell and Mrs. Appleton secured seats in one of the lifeboats. Mrs. Morgan and Miss Evans sought another. It was one of the last boats to go. They found places, but as the boat was about to be lowered it was seen to be overcrowded. One person would have to get out. Miss Evans arose, although her aunt put out a restraining hand, announcing she would go. "I must be the one to go," declared the young woman. "You stay; you have children at home; I have nobody." She jumped out, and the lifeboat was lowered. That was the last seen of her.

One able-bodied seaman, who shipped aboard the Titanic when she left Southampton, is tired and a little listless and subdued from the things he lived through last Monday. But his eyes light up and his speech becomes animated when you ask him what part the women played in the trying hours after the Titanic sank.

"There was a woman in my boat as was a woman," he told the *Daily Telegraph* representative yesterday. "She was the Countess of Rothes. I was one of those who was ordered to man the boats, and my place was in No. 8 boat. There were thirty-five of us in that boat, mostly women, but some men along with them. I

was in command, but I had to row, and I wanted someone at the tiller. When I saw the way she was carrying herself and heard the quiet, determined way she spoke to the others, I knew she was more of a man than any we had on board, and I put her in command. I put her at the tiller, and she was at the tiller when the Carpathia came along five hours later."

Of Miss Bentham it is related that she was sleeping soundly when the stewards came for her. She arose, dressed herself warmly, and was handed into a boat. This was very crowded; so much so that one sailor had to sit with his feet dangling in the icy-cold water. As time went on, the sufferings of the man from cold became apparent. Miss Bentham arose from her place and had the man turned round while she took his place with her feet in the water.

Miss Mary Young showed her spirit by compelling those in command of one boat to take on more passengers. When her boat got away it was found there was room for many more. There were twenty-six aboard when Miss Young thought forty could be carried safely. "Twenty-six is the limit," said one sailor. The young woman declared more should be taken, and she was so emphatic that they picked up several who were swimming in the water.

Miss Marie Young, who taught music to the children of President Roosevelt, was another carswoman. She was in a boat which she said was marked to have a capacity of eighty persons, although there were only twenty-eight in it. Miss Young, finding only four men to do the rowing, took her seat at the rowlock and went to work. She was very cool, and even reproved a sailor for puffing strong tobacco.

And so one could enlarge the list by the score.

AYLESBURY.

Hospitality is offered in a cottage outside Aylesbury for a week from April 27 to May 4 to worker in Aylesbury campaign. Cyclists would find it convenient, but there are train facilities also. Write at once to Miss Casserley, 39, Church Crescent, Muswell Hill, N.

At Aylesbury Petty Sessions on April 20, Miss Elizabeth Annie Bell was fined £5, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment, for smashing a window at the female convict prison at Aylesbury. Miss Bell was sent to Oxford Prison.

CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

For London Meetings see page 477.

W.S.P.U. General Offices: 4, Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C.

BALHAM AND FOOTING.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. D. J. Cooksedge, 12, Foxbourne Road, Balham, S.W.

Members please note that an account of our last "Bijou Hall" meeting appears in this week's *Balham, Footing, and Clapham News and Weekly Mail*. Gratefully acknowledged—A gift of books from Mrs. Madeline Lucette Ryley, per Mrs. McCormack.

BARNET.
Hon. Sec.—Miss Sue Watt, 13, Stratford Road.

A very successful At Home was given by Mrs. A. Hardfield on Tuesday, April 16, when a large audience gathered to hear Mrs. Ayrton Zangwill and Mr. Joseph Clayton speak. The collection amounted to 24s. Members are urged to make the meeting (to welcome Miss Spanton from prison, see programme) widely known, and to sell the tickets sent to them. It is hoped that every member will make a point of coming, in order to give Miss Spanton a hearty welcome. Gratefully acknowledged from Mrs. Wilson, for Self-Denial, 4s.

BOWES PARK AND DISTRICT.
Organiser—Miss H. Gargott, 4, Stenard Road, Palmer's Green, N.

The open-air meetings are very successful, and the paper is selling well. Members are reminded that there are only two days before the welcome to our prisoner. Members please make an effort to bring their friends to the Firsides Talks on Tuesday evenings. (See programme.)

CHELSEA AND KENSAL TOWN.
Shop and Office—308, King's Road.
Hon. Sec. (pro tem.)—Mrs. Temple Bird, Tel., 2888 Kensington.

A very successful meeting was held in Sloane Square on Thursday, April 12, Speaker, Mrs. Dore Fox. Chair, Mrs. Temple Bird. A good number of copies of *Votes* was sold. Gratefully acknowledged—Mrs. Draper (New York), 2s. We are glad to welcome another new member this week, Miss Mayd.

CLAPHAM.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Strong, 84, Elspeth Road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

The summer campaign was started on Sunday when Miss Isabel Seymour held a most successful meeting. Jumble parcels should be sent before Saturday, and as soon as possible. Will those willing to help please be at Morris Hall, North Street, at 2 p.m.?

CROYDON.
Office—50, High Street. Tel. 988 Croydon (Nat.). Hon. Sec.—Miss I. Green. Shop—Miss L. Hall.

A Speakers' Class will be held at 50, High Street, every Friday evening at 7 p.m. The subject for Friday next (25th inst.) will be "Why Women want the Vote." It is hoped that many members will take this opportunity of learning how to address meetings, both indoor and out. An extensive open-air campaign is starting locally. Chairmen and speakers will be much needed to prevent the strain falling too heavily on two or three. Will all those wishing to attend the classes please send in their names to Miss C. J. Green? The Social Gathering held on Friday last, when Mrs. Mansel spoke, was most successful. Many thanks to all who helped. Members and friends are asked to support the meeting to-night (Friday) in Katherine Street at 8 p.m. See programme for notices of these meetings, to be held twice a week—Tuesdays at Thornton Heath Clock, and Fridays in Katherine Street. Please bring friends to Miss Nelligan's drawing-room meeting on Thursday, May 2, at 5.30 p.m. Gratefully acknowledged—Miss Rowland, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Reeder, 5s.; Miss Nelligan, 1s. 1s.; Mrs. Norfolk, 10s.; Mrs. E. M. Moore, 10s.; Mrs. Ireland, 1s.

EALING.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Finlay, 35, Warwick Road.
At the committee meeting held on Wednesday, a vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Fraser Forbes (late co-sec.) for the splendid work she has done since the local union started. Mrs. Fiddian kindly offered her house for an At Home to members and friends. The secretary will be glad to receive names of members willing to help in paper-selling, distributing literature, handbills, &c. Open-air meetings on Ealing Common begin on Sunday, April 22, at 3 p.m. (see programme). Members are requested to turn up in full force. Members are urgently requested to give regular subscriptions toward the funds.

FULHAM AND PUTNEY.
Shop—305, Fulham Road. Hon. Secs.—Miss L. Cullen and Mrs. Roberts.

The outdoor meetings recommenced last Friday, when Miss Nancy Lightman spoke to a large and interested crowd. To-night (Friday), at the annual members' meeting, Dr. Ede will be the chief speaker. It is hoped that every member will bring a friend to hear Dr. Ede's account of the proceedings in Aylesbury Prison. Open-air meetings on Monday and Tuesday will be addressed by Misses Bonwick and Gilliat respectively. Will all members please take a share in stewarding at these meetings? The *Fulham Observer* of last week gave a lengthy quotation from the W.S.P.U. manifesto on the Conciliation Bill. Many thanks to a mate sympathiser, "G. G. G." for donation of 2s. 6d. towards expenses of window-repairing.

HACKNEY.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. F. W. Jones, 39, Pembury Road.

A members' meeting was held on Saturday for the re-election of officers. It is proposed to hold a big local meeting some five or six weeks hence, and all members are invited to send in offers of help in order that it may be a great success. Paper-sellers, bill-distributors, and "sandwich-men" will be necessary.

HAMMERSMITH.
Shop—95, The Grove. Hon. Sec.—Miss Marshall.

Several new workers have offered help in paper selling and shop duties, but more helpers are needed. A loan library is to be started. Please send suitable books. Newspapers will be on the table in the shop for the use of members. Open-air campaign, starts Tuesday, Miss Green is steward for meeting. Please send in names, as she requires help.

HAMPSTEAD.
Shop and Office—178, Finchley Road.

Hon. Secs.—Mrs. Hicks and Miss G. Collier.
There will be poster parades on Saturday and Monday next, at 11.15 a.m., to advertise the Town Hall meeting. The loan of a motor-car for the same purpose would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers are wanted also for chalking and bill-distributing. The first Annual Report, revealing a most satisfactory year's work, may now be had on application. The Colour Sale has been fixed for Tuesday, May 7. A meeting has also been arranged at the Keith Prowse Hall, Finchley Road, for Tuesday afternoon, May 14. Members are reminded that more helpers and many more contributions are needed for the jumble sale on Saturday, May 4. Miss P. Ayrton and Miss G. Maguire addressed a large and interested audience on Hampstead Heath last Sunday.

ISLINGTON.
Office—347, Goswell Road, E.C. Hon. Sec.—Miss E. M. Connerley.

Open-air meetings are in full swing, and more helpers are greatly needed, especially for the

Cobden's Statue meetings on Saturday evenings. Will members please apply to the secretary for instructions? Miss Randall is welcomed as a new speaker and member of the local union.

KENSINGTON.
Shop and Office—143, Church Street, Kensington, W. Tel. 2116 Western. Hon. Sec.—Miss Evelyn Sharp.

The monthly At Home, given kindly by Miss Swan, was a great success, and two drawing-room meetings were promised, one by Mrs. Lovegrove. Speaker, Dr. Flora Murray. The following are welcomed as new members: Miss A. Johnson, Miss McIlroy, Miss F. Fashley, Miss Winston. Wanted—paper-sellers and offers of drawing-room meetings. Warm thanks to a flower-seller in Westbourne Grove for a present of white lilacs for shop-window, and to Miss Emma Smith for donation of 19s. Several new pamphlets are on sale at the shop.

KINGSTON AND DISTRICT.
Hon. Org. Sec.—Mrs. Dore Fox. Office—13, Union Street, Kingston-on-Thames.

Members please advertise the jumble sale, which has been fixed for Saturday next, April 27, from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., in the Arcade adjoining the offices, 13, Union Street. Will each member let the hon. sec. know at once what help she can give on that day? Mrs. Brailford's meeting has been fixed for Tuesday, May 21 (evening). Help is required for the organising of this meeting. Mr. Joseph Clayton will also speak. The committee will be glad of offers of refreshments or money to enable them to make arrangements in good time. The meeting at the Coronation Stone was very successful, and Miss Gwen Richards made a splendid appeal. Gratefully acknowledged—Mrs. Oxenford, 2s.; The Misses Browns, 1s. 6d.; Miss C. Gornall, 2s.; Mrs. Barton, 1s.; Mrs. Vallance, 1s.; Lady Sympson, 2s.; Mrs. Langworthy, 2s.; Sympson, 2s.; Miss E. B. Worters, 1s.; Miss Burney, 1s.; Profit on Cakes, Mrs. Latham, 2s.; Sympson, 2s. Molesey is thanked for delicious cake, which sold at once. Miss C. Gornall and Mrs. Carter cordially welcomed as new members.

LAMETH.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. A. M. Hawkins.

Office—128, Brixton Road, S.W.
The new office will be opened on May 1, at 7.30 p.m. The outdoor campaign commences April 30. A jumble sale will be held in May. Gifts gratefully received. Acknowledged with thanks—Mrs. Langley, 6s.; A. M. H., 1s.

LEWISHAM.
Office—9a, Loampit Vale, Lewisham. Hon. Sec.—Miss Christina Campbell, Miss C. Townsend.

Gratefully acknowledged—Donation, Misses Sholdice, 5s.; Mrs. Lucas, 2s.; Office rent, Mrs. Brown, 2s. Members are earnestly requested to come, and bring as many friends as possible, to the Welcome "At Home" to Mrs. McKenna, at The Priory, Lewisham High Street, April 29, 7.30 p.m.

N.W. LONDON.
Office—215, High Road, Kilburn. Tel., 1183 Hampstead. Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Fann Gaskell.

It is hoped that members will secure tickets for themselves and friends for the meeting on May 1, at St. Anne's Hall, Salisbury Road, when Mrs. A. J. Webb, Mrs. Abraham, and Mr. Joseph Clayton will speak on the White Slave Traffic. A few free tickets for women only, can be obtained at the office. Members are earnestly asked to do all they can to work up the meeting. Please call at the office for particulars. On April 2 a postal order for 2s. was sent to the office, but name was omitted. Will sender forward name? New books have been added to the library.

PADDINGTON AND MARYLEBONE.
Shop and Office—52, Praed Street, W.

Hon. Sec.—The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield.
The weekly meetings at the shop have now been changed to Thursday evenings at 8.15 p.m. Members and friends please remember the jumble sale which is shortly to take place. Paper-sellers are much needed. Appropriate books for the members' library are very welcome.

SYDENHAM AND FOREST HILL.
Hon. Sec. (pro tem.)—Miss A. C. McCallis, 2, Hill Rise, Forest Hill.

A dramatic entertainment by members of the Actresses' Franchise League will take place on Tuesday, April 30, at 8.15 p.m., in the Hamilton Hall. Members are earnestly requested to make this known among their friends. Mrs. Brailford has kindly consented to speak.

WEST HAM.
Hon. Sec.—Miss D. M. Hooper, 49, Junction Road, Romford.

A most successful open-air meeting was held at The Grove, Stratford, on Tuesday last, when Miss Richards spoke. The next meeting at The Grove will be held on April 30, when Miss Jacobs will be the speaker. Tickets are now available for reserved seats (prices 6d. and 3d.) for the meeting to be held at the Workmen's Hall, Stratford, on May 21. It is hoped that every member will take tickets, and bring as many unconverted friends as possible. Lady Stout and Rev. E. J. Baron, of Fodge, will speak. Mrs. Gibson was very kindly lent her drawing-room for a meeting on May 4, at 7 p.m., when Miss K. Douglas Smith will speak on Woman's Suffrage. All members who would like invitations for friends are asked to apply to the secretary.

WIMBLEDON PARK AND S. WIMBLEDON.
Hon. Sec.—Miss E. E. Allan, 78, Woodside, Wimbledon. Tel., 1037 P.O.

Members please note the meeting at Wimbledon Park on Tuesday next. Will members save the treasurer as much as possible by sending in their subscriptions regularly? A jumble sale is to be organised shortly, and it is hoped that members and friends will be able to send articles for this. In the Broadway on Saturday evening, Theodore Gageheim, Esq., F. N. Sergeant, Esq., and G. T. Heard, Esq., spoke splendidly to a very large audience. Papers sold well, and much interest was shown. Other Union place note that the Court Train used in the "212 Lock" may be hired for 2s. 6d. each performance, and carriage both ways. Miss Estelle Marqueti is thanked for her subscription.

WIMBLEDON.
Shop—9, Victoria Crescent, Broadway. Tel., 1092, P.O. Wimbledon. Hon. Org. Sec.—Mrs. Lamartine Yates, Dorset Hall, Merton, Surrey.

Members are reminded that Mrs. Headlam has invited them all to tea to-day (Friday) at 4.30 at 1, St. Mary's Road, Wimbledon. Members would do well to read last week's *Surrey Comet*, which has a full description of the hunger strike and forcible feeding. Miss Audrey Ainler is expected to be released from Holloway on May 3. Will members keep that morning free? Full details of the welcome will be posted up in the shop. It is hoped Miss Ainler may be present at the opening meeting of the summer series at the Lecture Hall, May 9, when Mr. Laurence Housman will give his new "Sex War," and Miss Winifred Mayo will also speak. Tickets will shortly be obtainable at the office and the Carlton Bakery. Mrs. Begbie sends greetings from Birmingham and to the members, and urges them to work on. Mrs. Jessie Howard, who is in Holloway, is kindly well. The meeting on the Common was addressed by Mrs. Lamartine Yates, Mrs. Hutt being in the chair. A large and understanding crowd listened attentively, and an unusually large number of *Votes* was sold.

Home Counties.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.

Organiser—Miss M. S. Allen. Hon. Sec.—Miss Stewart.
W.S.P.U. Shop—Marina.

The shop is now completely furnished, and all is ready for real work. At the "At Home" on Tuesday a resolution protesting against the treatment of Suffragists in prison, and demanding political privileges for them, was carried unanimously, and forwarded to Mr. McKenna. Gratefully acknowledged—Miss Stewart, 22 10s.; Miss Heekels, 15s.; Miss Bourne, 2s. 6d.
Tues., April 30.—Bexhill, W.S.P.U. Shop, Marina. At Home, 4-6 p.m.

BOURNEMOUTH.

Office—221, Old Christchurch Road.
Hon. Sec.—Miss S. Berry.

A most enjoyable "At Home" was held by kind permission of Mrs. Hume, at Freedom Hall, West Cliff Gardens, on Wednesday afternoon, April 17, when Mrs. Dove-Willcox very kindly spoke in the unavoidable absence of Miss Isabel Seymour. A resolution protesting against the present treatment of Suffragist prisoners was passed unanimously, and sent to the Home Secretary. In the evening Mrs. Dove-Willcox addressed a large and interested crowd at Landseer Road corner Westbourne. Miss Symons will have furniture sold for King's taxes at the Auction Rooms, Upper Parkstone, on Thursday, May 2, at 6 p.m. Members please try to be present. A members' meeting is held at the office every Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. Gratefully acknowledged—Mrs. Bartlett, 5s.; Miss Bartlett, 1s.; Miss J. Howard Shaw, 1s.

BRIGHTON, HOVE, AND DISTRICT.

Office—9, North Street, Quadrant. Tel., 4493 Nat. Organiser—Miss G. Allen.

Miss E. New has had interested audiences at the week-end meetings, and on Saturday kindly gave us an extra meeting. Lady Isabel Mangemon and Miss Isabel Seymour will speak in the Old Stone Hall, May 7, at 6 p.m. Members willing to help please send in their names to the Friday members' meeting. We are very glad to have back one of our prisoners, Miss Inglis, who has been on hunger strike in Holloway Gaol. Seafront meetings, Saturday, 3 p.m., Sunday, 11.30 a.m.

CANTERBURY AND SOUTH KENT.
Organiser—Miss F. E. Macanlay, Trevarra, 30, Bouvarie Road West, Folkestone.

The open-air meeting in Dover on Thursday night, April 18, was very successful. There was a large and attentive audience, and a resolution of protest against the treatment of political prisoners as common criminals, and also against the exclusion of women from the Home Office Bill, was passed unanimously. Details of the coming hall meetings will appear shortly.

HASTBOURNE.

Temporary Headquarters—10, Southfields Road. Organiser—Miss M. S. Allen.
Hon. Sec.—Miss Sibella Jones.

The meeting on Wednesday at the Marlborough Tea Rooms, when Mrs. Mansel spoke, was the largest and most enthusiastic yet held there. The resolutions protesting against the forcible feeding of our women in prison was carried unanimously and sent to Mr. McKenna. A collection of 22s. 2d. was taken. At a meeting of the British Socialist Party, 35, Cavendish Road, Mrs. Mansel again spoke, and a resolution calling upon the Government to bring in a Bill enfranchising women on the same terms as men was carried unanimously. Gratefully acknowledged—A "Non-militant," 2s.; A "Non-militant," 1s.; Mrs. Allen, 5s.

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS.
Shop—8, Trinity Street, Hastings.

Organiser—Miss M. S. Allen.
Members very much enjoyed Mrs. Dove-Willcox's speech on Monday. A resolution protesting against the treatment of women political prisoners, and demanding the privileges due to them, was carried unanimously. Will members volunteer to sell *Votes* for Women? Miss Farr, who is spending a holiday in St. Leonards, sells a large number of copies each week. Will others follow her splendid example? Gratefully acknowledged—Mrs. Pope, 10s.; Mrs. Kirk Bullock, 2s. 6d.
Mon., April 23.—Hastings, 8, Trinity Street. At Home, Mrs. Mansel, 4-6 p.m.

PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTHAMPTON.
Hon. Sec.—Miss L. H. Peacock, 4, Pelham Road, Portsmouth.

The protest meeting on the 13th was very successful, and the resolution was carried unanimously. Many thanks are due to Mrs. Whetton, of the Freedom League, Miss O'Brien, and Mr. Jeff for so generously coming forward to speak. Members are urged to come and offer their help to make the following successful. Sellers and stewards are required.
Sat., April 27.—Jumble Sale at St. Michael's Parish Room, Portsmouth, at 3 o'clock.
Wednesday, May 1.—Meeting at Albert Hall, Portsmouth, at 8 o'clock. Speakers—Miss E. Douglas Smith and the Rev. G. H. Thompson.

READING AND NEWBURY.
Shop and Office—49, Market Place.

Hon. Sec.—Miss O. L. Cobb.
The following annual subscriptions have been received or promised, and are gratefully acknowledged—Mrs. Stanfield, Misses E. F. and O. L. Cobb, 25 each; Mrs. Dick, 22s.; Dr. Carling and Mrs. Green, 21 each; Miss E. Cobb, 10s. 6d.; Miss Brass, Miss Dunn, Miss Edwards, Miss Norton, Miss F. Prior, Miss Stark, 10s. each; Miss Morley, Miss Wiggs, Mrs. Shaw, 5s. each; Miss Broadhurst, Miss Mason, 6d. each; Mrs. King, 2s. In addition, Miss Edwards gives 5s. a week to the funds. Further subscriptions may be sent to Miss Norton.
Tues., April 23.—Sewing "At Home" for members and friends, 3.30.

REDEHILL.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Cathar, The Red Cottage, Cavendish Road.

A very good meeting was held at the Market Hall last Friday, when Mrs. Haverfield, Miss Evelyn Sharp, and Miss Ayrton spoke, and Miss Eva Moore recited. The collection taken amounted to 21 10s., and the supply of *Votes* was exhausted. Members are asked to follow this up by obtaining new readers for the paper.

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WEST AND NORTH KENT.

Organiser—Miss Evelyn Billing, 78, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone.

Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells have had good open-air meetings, and the general public is beginning to understand the truth about "forcible feeding." Maidstone is now being aroused, because there are Suffragettes serving six months' imprisonment there. Details of campaign next week.

Sat., April 27.—Maidstone, near Eiffel Tower Factory, 12 p.m. Maidstone, Sessions House, 7.30 p.m.

Mon., April 29.—Rochester, Northgate, 8 p.m. Tues., April 30.—Gillingham, King Street, 8 p.m. Thurs., May 2.—Maidstone, The Cannon, 8 p.m.

The Midlands.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.
Office—97, John Bright Street, Tel., 1443 Midland.

Organiser—Miss Green.

The prisoners at Winslow Green will now be allowed to receive visits once a month. We have started a Prisoners' Hamper Fund, and as we have women from other parts of the country here, Miss Green will be glad to receive contributions from friends outside Birmingham. The Wednesday evening meetings will soon close, and be replaced by outdoor meetings. A big open-air campaign begins on Monday next. Votes sellers and collectors are wanted for this work. Miss Margaret Haley very much impressed a big audience at Queen's College by her account of the treatment at Aylesbury Prison. Any friends from a distance coming to visit prisoners are asked to acquaint Miss Green of the time and date, so that she can arrange to have them met.

COVENTRY.

Office—33, Earl Street.

Organiser—Miss Markwick.

Members have returned from their holidays to work with renewed energy. The following meeting will be held, and chalkers are required:—Thurs., May 2.—Leamington Parade. Speaker, Miss Markwick. 6.15 p.m.

NORTHAMPTON.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Miller, 67, Deragate.

A small At Home was given in Kettering on Friday by Mrs. Bull and Mrs. Fraser, when Miss Georgina Brackenbury spoke to an interested audience. Thanks to Miss Palmer for her assistance in stewarding. Drawing-room or garden meetings are still wanted in this and other towns. In the evening Miss Brackenbury spoke at a large and very successful At Home in Northampton, when Mrs. Marriott took the chair. Our warmest thanks to the hostesses, Mrs. Crockett, Mrs. Marriott, Mrs. Astor, Mrs. Chamberlain, and Mrs. Wright. If there is still anyone who has not given a contribution to the Self-Denial Fund, Miss Miller will be glad to receive it.

Sun., April 28.—Peterborough, Rock Road, Council School. Mrs. Harold Croft, 3 p.m. Bedford Cafe, Mrs. Harold Croft, 8 p.m. Mon., April 29.—Peterborough, Cathedral Precincts, Church Room. Mrs. Pertwee, 8 p.m.

NOTTINGHAM.

Office—6, Carlton Street, Tel., 4511.

Organisers—Miss Roberts and Miss Crocker. The next members' meeting is at the Friends' Adult School, on Tuesday, May 7 (not April 30, as announced). Miss Dorothy Pethick has promised to speak. More volunteers for paper-selling are urgently needed.

RUGBY.

Organiser—Miss Markwick.

A meeting will be held in the Market Place on Monday, May 6, at 7 p.m. Speaker, Miss Markwick.

STRAFORD-ON-AVON.

Organiser—Miss Markwick. Hon. Sec.—Miss M. East, Fairview.

A most enjoyable gathering of members took place at Miss Ashford's on April 4. Mrs. Thompson has kindly invited members for May 1. Members and friends wishing for information kindly write to the hon. sec., also those who are willing to undertake street-selling of paper and chalking for meetings.

Mon., April 28.—Memorial Fountain. Speaker, Miss Markwick. Chair, Miss East. 6 p.m.

WALSLEY.

Shop and Office—19, Leicester Street.

Hon. Organiser—Miss F. Ward. At the Co-operative Hall on Thursday, April 18, a public meeting was held, ably presided over by Miss Evelyn Thacker. Mrs. Kerwood made a very stirring appeal to all members to work harder than ever. Nurse McDonald joined, and papers sold well.

West of England.

BRISTOL.

Office—37, Queen's Road, Clifton. Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Dove Wilcox. Hon. Treas.—Mrs. Young.

The weekly At Home will through the summer be continued at the shop, beginning next Monday. Open-air work has begun in real earnest, and members are asked to take this opportunity of developing as speakers. Mrs. Cuthbert Hicks has kindly promised to lend her beautiful garden for the purpose of welcoming our three Bristol prisoners now in Holloway, who are expected home next week.

Weekly Meeting—Mon., April 28, at 37, Queen's Road. Tea, 3.30. Speaking begins 4.

CHELTENHAM.

Hon. Sec. (pro. tem.)—Miss E. L. Andrews, 2, Victoria Walk. Hon. Treas.—Mrs. Hill, Glynrosa, Charlton Kings.

On Saturday afternoon, May 4, a members' meeting will be held. Speaker, Mrs. Drummond. Particulars will be given later on.

Fri., April 26.—Clarence Street lamp. Miss Flatman. Chair, Miss Gregory, 8 p.m.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Sat., April 27.—Gloucester, Commercial Road. Miss Flatman, 8 p.m.

Thurs., May 2.—Birmingham, The Lawn. At Home. Mrs. Massey. Miss Flatman. Hostess, Mrs. Child. 3 p.m. Ross. Mrs. Massey, Miss Flatman, 8 p.m.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

Organiser—Miss Flatman, 25, Castle Street, Hereford.

The At Home on Thursday last was a great success, many thanks to the Rev. and Mrs. O. H. Davis for their great help, also to Mrs. Child, Mrs. Allen, and Mrs. Keay and Bridham for supplying refreshments, and to Mrs. Scobie, Miss Steel, and the Rev. C. H. Davis for the musical part of the programme. Mrs. Davis is exciting great interest in Hereford by regularly selling Votes for Women every Wednesday and Saturday. Will others please come forward and support her? Mrs. Brailsford has promised to address a meeting in the Town Hall on May 16, and it is hoped that Mrs. Massey will speak in Ross and Ledbury on May 1 and 2. Miss Flatman is speaking in Cheltenham to-night at 8, and on Saturday in Gloucester at 8. Local members, please come and help.

Wed., May 1.—Ledbury Assembly Rooms. Mrs. Massey, Miss Flatman, 8 p.m.

Wales.

BARRY.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. F. G. Jones, 259, Gladstone Road.

A highly successful public meeting was held on April 18 at the Masonic Hall, Barry. Speakers,

Mrs. Brailsford and Miss Rachel Barrett. A resolution calling upon the Government to enfranchise women this session, and also calling upon the Home Secretary to grant to suffrage prisoners the rights accorded to political offenders was carried with great applause. The prospect is very bright for the open-air campaign, which is to take place shortly.

CARDIFF.

Organiser—Miss Rachel Barrett, B.Sc., 93, Minlan Road, Cardiff.

The monthly At Home on Thursday, April 18, was very successful. Mrs. Brailsford was the speaker, and was much appreciated. Several new members joined the Union, and a good collection was taken. There was also a very good evening meeting in Penarth. The next At Home is to be held at the Park Hotel. The date is May 16, and the speaker will be Miss Evelyn Sharp. Will members please note date and place, and bring as many friends as possible?

Eastern Counties.

CHELMSFORD.

Organiser—Miss Grace Roe.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Bartels, Oak Cottage, Park Road.

Sat., April 27.—Market Place, 8 p.m.

Tues., April 30.—Crane Court Assembly Rooms, 8 p.m. Speakers, Miss Georgina Brackenbury, Rev. Claude Hinscliff.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.

Shop—17, Rosemary Road.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Lilley, Holland House.

The Misses Kate and Louise Lilley are expected to be released from Holloway Prison on Monday, April 29. A reception will be given to them by the members on May 3 at eight o'clock at Devonshire Lodge, Edith Road. Miss Granger having kindly offered her house for the occasion.

FELKESTOWE.

Organiser—Miss Grace Roe. Hon. Sec.—Miss Ethel Lowy, Woodcroft, Bath Road.

Thurs., April 25.—Hamilton Hall, 8 p.m. Mrs. Mansel Reptitions, Miss Winifred Roughton.

Wed., May 1.—Sorrento, Leopold Road, 3 p.m. Work Party.

Shop—Dial Lane, Ipswich. Organiser—Miss Grace Roe, 19, Silent Street, Ipswich.

Shop Sec.—Miss King.

A petition, signed by several hundred men and women, demanding that Suffragists shall be treated as political offenders, and strongly condemning forcible feeding, has been sent to the Home Secretary. Will members please let the organiser know as soon as possible what help they can give with the fulfilment of which has been taken for the Women's Festival of Work? Members and friends will be welcomed at the work parties. (See below.) A jumble sale will be held early in May, and jumble parcels should be sent to Miss Lilley Roe, 65, Fonnereau Road, Ipswich.

Fri., April 26.—Work Party, 3 p.m., 19, Silent Street.

Mon., April 28.—Work Party, 3 p.m., 19, Silent Street.

Wed., May 1.—Stowmarket. At Home, Morland, 3 p.m., Miss Georgina Brackenbury. Hostess, Mrs. Peacock.

Thurs., May 2.—Ipswich, Cornhill, 8 p.m. Miss Georgina Brackenbury.

North-Eastern Counties.

BRADFORD.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Millar Wilson, Belmont.

Hon. Treas.—Mrs. Hardy Behrens.

The Jumble Sale brought in rather over £8 to our funds. Thanks to all members who helped to make it a success. On Monday afternoon, April 15, Mrs. Greaves spoke to a number of the members, and again at the first of the Monday evening meetings, which are being held in the shop until Whitsuntide. A special leaflet has been sent to working members who are not able to come to the shop at other times, asking them to attend that they may get into touch with the work and prepare for the open-air campaign after Whitsuntide.

Mon., April 28.—Bradford Suffrage Shop. Miss Key-Jones, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD.

Organiser—Miss Annie Williams, 1, Fitzwilliam Street West, Huddersfield.

All Members of Parliament in the district must be written to and their attention drawn to the exclusion of women from the Home Rule Bill. The following are the meetings arranged for Mrs. Brailsford. Every member please do her best to fill the balls.

Mon., April 28.—Halifax, Mechanics' Institute. Miss Annie Williams, 8 p.m.

Wed., May 1.—Huddersfield, Parochial Hall. Miss Annie Williams, 8 p.m.

Wed., May 8.—Huddersfield, Parochial Hall, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. Chair, the Rev. Paul Stacy-Elland. Tickets, 6d. tea.

Wed., May 8.—Halifax, Victoria Hall, 8 p.m. Chair, Dr. Helena Jones. Admission free; collection.

Thurs., May 9.—Huddersfield, Parochial Hall, 8 p.m. Chair, Dr. Helena Jones. Admission free; collection.

KULL.

Organiser—Miss Mary Phillips, 113, Beverley Road, Kull.

A well-attended meeting was held in Fulford Rooms, Beverley Road, on April 18. Joseph Clayton, Esq., was the chief speaker, and made a strong protest against the treatment of Suffragette prisoners. Dr. May Murdoch in the chair. A resolution was passed calling upon the Government to enfranchise women this session. Good reports of the meeting were given in the local papers.

NEWCASTLE AND DISTRICT.

Office—77, Blackett Street, Tel. No., 4591 Central.

Organiser—Miss Laura Ainsworth.

All members are now concentrating on the demonstrations. Mrs. Barnes will speak at Newcastle and South Shields, and Mrs. Drummond at North Shields, on May 18. Many new speakers are coming out, but there is work for still more. Will members please offer to distribute bills; the work is especially important. Mrs. Haggie (of Long Benton) is kindly giving a drawing-room meeting on May 8. Will other members please offer? The poster parade last Saturday made a great sensation.

Fri., April 26.—North Shields, Boro' Road. Miss Violet Taylor. Chair, Miss Rainbow, 7.30 p.m.

Mon., April 28.—Jarrow, Union Street. Miss Wilcox. Chair, Mrs. Cow, 7.30 p.m.

Tues., April 30.—South Shields, Market Place, 7.30 p.m.

Wed., May 1.—Newcastle, 77, Blackett Street. At Home. Mrs. Atkinson, 7.30 p.m.

Thurs., May 2.—Sunderland, Trimden Street, 7.30 p.m.

Fri., May 3.—North Shields, Boro' Road. Miss Eden. Chair, Miss Dover, 7.30 p.m.

BOARDOURGH.

Shop—33, St. Nicholas Cliff.

Hon. Sec.—Miss A. Vickerman.

The new premises were opened on Monday, April 15. Thanks to Mrs. Wardell and Miss Harvey for taking charge of the removing. Paper sellers are urgently needed on Saturday mornings for the Bunsby Bow pitch. The treasurer will be pleased to receive all promise cards for the shop.

rent. Gratefully acknowledged: Miss Walker, 55; Dr. Mackenzie McManus, 25; Mrs. Piper 10s.; Mrs. Wigney, 25; Miss Leaf, 2s.; Mrs. Wickman, 5s.

YORK.

Office—Colby Chambers, Tel., 692 Coppergate.

Organiser—Miss V. Key-Jones.

Will members please help to deliver cards for the At Home at which Miss Brackenbury is speaking. The cards can be obtained at the office. A sub-committee is arranging a whist-drive for May 7; Jumble Sale, May 4. Please do not delay in sending in your rummage, or send post card, and the card will call on April 27 (Saturday). The Speakers' Class is held every Wednesday. Each member may bring one friend. An open-air meeting was held in the Market-place last Thursday. Speakers, Miss Key-Jones and Dr. T. M. Waller. A resolution was carried protesting against the forcible feeding. Great regret is felt at Dr. Waller's departure from York. Her untiring work and active interest in the branch has earned her the gratitude of every member.

Tues., April 30.—Exhibition Square. Miss Agnes Suffield, Dr. Waller, 8 p.m.

Wed., May 1.—Speakers' Class, 8. Office. S. Key-Jones, Esq., 8 p.m.

North-Western Counties.

BIRKENHEAD BRANCH.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. A. C. Abraham, 2, Kingsmead Road.

An open-air meeting was held on Saturday evening, April 20, with Miss Brook and Miss Isabel Abraham as speakers. The attendance was good, also the sale of papers. St. John's Church, Saturday next, 27th, at 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss Woodlock.

MANCHESTER.

Office—32, King Street West.

Hon. Sec.—Miss L. Williamson, B.A.

Treasurer—Mrs. Ratcliffe.

A Jumble Sale will be held on May 4 at 2 p.m. in the Tuer Street Schools, near Owen's College. In the evening, from 7 to 9.30, at the same school an entertainment will be given by members and friends. Will all members come to Tuer Street School on Friday evening, May 3, to prepare for the sale, and on Saturday to help at the sale and concert? Members please come to the weekly Friday meeting, and offer services for the open-air campaign now commencing, and culminating in a large indoor meeting on Whit Sunday.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT.

Shop—26, Chapel Walk, Sheffield.

Hon. Sec.—Miss F. E. Coxhill.

The performances of "How the Vote was Won" were most successful, and excellent speeches were made by Mr. Clayton, Miss Pethick, Mrs. Lamartine Yates, and Miss Key-Jones. Many thanks to all members who helped so splendidly. Members please note meeting (see below), and make a special effort to attend, as plans for the summer campaign will be discussed.

Wed., May 1.—Sheffield, Members' Meeting. 7 p.m.

WALLASEY.

Hon. Secs.—Mrs. Mahood, Bursough Bridge, Lancashire; Miss Lee, 58, Belvidere Road, Wallasey, Cheshire.

A members' meeting was held at Seacombe on Monday, April 15th. Miss Lee presided. Miss Hoy read a paper on "What Militant Methods Have Done." A discussion followed, in which several members took part. The meeting protested against the barbarous method of forcible feeding.

Mon., April 28.—Miss Franklin, Miss D. Abraham, Miss Palethorp, and Miss Callender. Account of Experiences in London. Chair, Mrs. Mahood.

Scotland.

ABERDEEN.

Organiser—Miss Helen Jollie.

Shop—7, Bon Accord Street.

Members are asked to do their utmost to make Mrs. Mansell's meeting on the 30th a great success. More paper-sellers are wanted. Gratefully received:—Miss Low, 10s.

Fri., April 26.—Aberdeen, Corn Market. Miss Helen Jollie, 3 p.m.

Mon., April 28.—Docks. Miss Helen Jollie. Dinner hour meeting.

Tues., April 30.—Aberdeen, Round Room, Music Hall. Mrs. Mansell. Chair: Miss Helen Jollie, 8 p.m.

Wed., May 1.—Open-air meeting. Miss Helen Jollie. Chair: Mrs. Webster, 7 p.m.

Fri., May 3.—Aberdeen, Corn Market. Miss Helen Jollie, 3 p.m.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND.

Shop and Office—502, Sauchiehall Street.

Tel., 815, Charing Cross. Hon. Org. Sec.—Miss F. McPhun. Organiser—Miss Parker.

Miss Abadam spoke for the W.S.P.U. at a successful meeting in the Y.M.C.A. hall in Paisley on Monday, 22nd inst. The supper party to welcome eight of our Glasgow released prisoners will be held on Thursday evening, May 9, at 8 p.m., at Miss Rombach's, 5, Waterloo Street. Tickets (2s. each) may now be had at the office, and members will oblige us by taking them at once. A meeting of Ayr and Prestwick members of the W.S.P.U. was held on Tuesday afternoon, 23rd inst., at the house of Mrs. Gow, Gayton, Prestwick. Miss Underwood was the speaker.

Fri., April 26.—Glasgow, Charing Cross Halls. Released Holloway Prisoners, 3.30 p.m.

Fri., May 3.—Glasgow, Charing Cross Halls. Mrs. Mansell Moullin, 3.30 p.m. Helensburgh, Victoria Halls. Mrs. Mansell Moullin, 8 p.m.

DUNDEE AND EAST FIFE.

Office—61, Nethergate.

Organiser—Miss Fraser Smith, M.A.

Hon. Sec.—Miss McFarlane, Tel., 2319.

Many thanks to those members who attended to the office and market stall and helped with the sale of papers during the Easter holidays. The paper has been selling very well at the Flower Market, and thousands of "Broken Window" leaflets have been distributed. A Jumble Sale will be held towards the end of May. Full particulars later.

Sat., April 27.—Stall at Flower Market, 2.10 p.m.

Wed., May 1.—Dundee, 61, Nethergate. Miss Lucy Burns, B.A., 8 p.m.

CLERKS' W.S.P.U.

Hon. Secs.—Miss Cynthia Maguire, 39, Priory Road, N.W.; Miss E. A. Ayrton, 62, Edith Road, W. Kensington.

Will all members of the W.S.P.U. engaged in clerical or secretarial work communicate with the hon. sec.? It is proposed to hold a series of meetings especially for women in these professions, and help of all kind will be needed in making them known. Offers of offices or drawing-rooms where meetings can be held will be very welcome.

THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

2, Robert Street, Strand, W.C. Telephone: City 111. Pres. Mrs. Forbes Robertson. Organising Secretary—Miss G. M. Condon.

The next At Home of the Actresses' Franchise League will be held in the Grand Hall of the Criterion Restaurant on Friday, May 3, at 3 p.m. Hostess, Madame Larkoom. Speakers, Miss Abadam, Mr. Charles Lumsby, and others.

WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE.

Office—10, Talbot House, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

Temp. Org.—Miss E. Raleigh, Chestnut Cottage, Wendover, Bucks.

On April 16 goods belonging to Miss Nollan were sold in Croydon for non-payment of King's taxes. At Wendover, on April 17, Mrs. Hamilton's silver was sold for tax resistance at the Red Lion Hotel, Wendover, and on the same day at the Estate Office, High Street, Marlow, property belonging to Mrs. Sargent Florence and Miss Edith Hayes, which had been seized for non-payment of taxes, was also sold. On April 20 a dog-cart belonging to Miss Lelacheur was sold in Reading for non-payment of the Agricultural Land Tax. Successful protest meetings were held after each sale.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOC. FOR W.S.

President—Mrs. Cecil Chapman.

Office—5, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge (opposite Tube Station).

Mr. Athelny-Jones, A.C., M.P., will speak at the office At Home on Tuesday, April 30, at 4.15 p.m. Hostess, Mrs. Mitchell. Miss McGowan, the organiser, in addition to her work in Dulwich, is now arranging a drawing-room meeting in Putney, where it is hoped to form a branch of the N.C.S. A campaign will shortly be started in Peckham. Will friends willing to help by speaking, canvassing, &c., or by giving introductions to residents in these neighbourhoods kindly communicate with the office as soon as possible? The society has reprinted Mrs. Flora Annie Steel's letter to the Times in leaflet form. Copies can now be had, from the office, at 2d. a dozen, or 1s. a hundred.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Beatrice Gadsby, B.A. Hon. Treas.—Miss Monica Whately. Office—51, Blandford Street, Baker Street, W.

The office is now open, as usual, on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 5 to 6, or by appointment. Drawing-room meetings are now being arranged. Orders may be sent to the office for the splendid pamphlet on Women's Suffrage by Mr. Clayton, price 1d.; also leaflets at 12 a 1d. Gratefully acknowledged: Miss L. E. Nye, 1s. 6d.

Liverpool and District Branch.

A meeting will be held at Hardman Hall, Hardman Street, on Monday, May 6, at 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss Abadam. Chair, Miss Fitzsimons. Entrance free; reserved seats, 1s. and 6d., to be had from Miss F. Barry, 66, Park Road, South Birkenhead. As this will be our first meeting, all friends and sympathisers are asked to attend; also to advertise the meeting as much as possible.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR W.S.

Hon. General Sec.—Rev. C. Fleming Williams, 2, Holmby View, Clapton, E.

The annual public meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9, at 8 p.m., at the Memorial Hall, Farrington Street, E.C. Speakers, Philip Snowden, Esq., M.P., Lady Barlow, and others. The meeting will be preceded by a members' meeting at 5 o'clock, also in the Memorial Hall.

IRISH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Hon. Sec.—Miss G. O'Connell Hayes, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand.

At the fortnightly meeting at the Emerson Club last Tuesday the speaker was Mrs. Cunningham. Miss G. O'Connell Hayes, the hon. sec., said the league wished to associate itself with the other Irish suffrage societies in the protest against the exclusion of women from the Home Rule Bill which was to be made at the forthcoming National Convention in Dublin, and asked many of the members as possible to go over and join the deputation. A very successful whist drive took place on the 20th inst. at the Emerson Club, resulting in a substantial addition to the funds of the League. Mrs. Mary Casey presented handsome prizes, and very generously defrayed all expenses in connection with the evening. Gratefully acknowledged: 10s. 6d. from Mrs. Sohn. Meeting for members only, Tuesday, April 30, Emerson Club, at 8 p.m. It is hoped every member will attend.

MEN'S POLITICAL UNION

For Women's Enfranchisement.

Offices—13, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. Telephone—City 6673.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Single insertion, 24 words or less, 2s. 1d. per word for every additional word. (Four insertions for the price of three.)

All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday afternoon. Address, the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.
[Property found at W.S.P.U. meetings should be sent to Miss Kerr, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.]

GIVEN FOR SELF-DENIAL FUND.
We are anxious to sell the following articles in order to add the amount realised to the total of the Self-Denial Fund:—
Lady's gold watch (18ct), half hunter, good condition £2 10 0
Lady's silver watch, nearly new 1 5 0
Gold necklace (14ct) 1 5 0
Large gold brooch, set red coral (artistic design) 1 1 0
Locket, gold and blue enamel, set pearl and diamond heart 1 1 0
Ring, set one ruby and two emeralds 0 15 0
Gold bangle 1 1 0
Gold curb bracelet 0 15 0
Gold scarf pin, set turquoise 0 10 0
Gold bracelet, set opals and garnets 2 2 0
Cloisonné plate 1 1 0
Fur, pointed fox, length, including tails, 2½ yds (Edward VII.) 1 1 0
25 pieces (Edward VII.) Offers asked
Two heavy Indian silver rings (copy of ancient Indian jewellery) Offers asked
Offers for any of the above will be considered. Apply, Mrs. Sanders, W.S.P.U., 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

LOST PROPERTY.—Umbrella, with silver crook handle, taken in mistake for similar one (silver engraved) from the Connaught Rooms Reception on Sat. April 20. Please return to Miss Kerr, who will effect the exchange.

BOARD RESIDENCE, Etc.

BED-SITTING ROOM in Private House, with board, for lady engaged during day. Healthy position and open outlook. Use of bath-room and large garden. Irene Parley (née Spong), 12, Dalmeny Avenue, Camden Road.

BOARD in Kensington; private family; bed and sitting-rooms, together, £3; singly, £2. Delightful house. Musical society. Suffragettes. Mrs. B. Hosburn's Library, 73, Church Street, Kensington.

BOARD - RESIDENCE offered to Students, Visitors to London, and others. Comfortable home; moderate terms. Miss Kilbey, 5, Guilford Street, Russell Square, W.C.

BOARD-RESIDENCE, partial, 12s. 6d. to 15s. 6d.; full, 15s. 6d. to 25s.—Denbigh House, 57, Denbigh Street, S.W.

BOARD - RESIDENCE, superior, 26, Kensington Gardens Square, Hyde Park; close Queen's Road Tube and Met.; beautiful position, overlooking gardens, free access; most comfortable, quiet, clean; good cooking; liberal table. From 21s.—Highest references.

BRIGHTON - TITCHFIELD HOUSE, 21, Upper Rock Gardens, off Marine Parade. Good table. Congenial society. Terms, 25s. to 30s.—Mrs. Gray, Member W.S.P.U.

DUBLIN, IRELAND.—Suffragettes received in congenial private family. Terms, 25s. weekly. Good table. Electric light; telephone, &c.—Letters, c/o "P. D.", 3, Harold's Cross, Dublin.

FOLKESTONE.—Roycewood, Castle Hill Avenue. Board-residence; best part; moderate terms. Special care for delicate people. Well recommended. Proprietress.

FOLKESTONE.—Trovvara, Bouverie Road West. Board-residence. Excellent position, close to sea, Leas, and theatre. Separate tables. From two guineas.—Proprietress, Miss Key (W.S.P.U.).

HOSTEL for Ladies, in quiet, pleasant square, N.W.; Charing Cross 10 minutes. Bath, electric light. Quiet room for study. Excellent cooking. From 17s. Breakfast and late dinner only, from 14s.—31, Oakley Square, N.W.

LONDON, W.C. (113, Gower Street).—Refined home (ladies). Bed, breakfast, dinner, and full board Sundays (cubicle), from 15s. 6d. Rooms, 19s. 6d. Full board, 17s. 6d. to 25s. Gentlemen from 19s. 6d.

MAIDA HILL, W.—Paying guests received; homely, refined family; special arrangements, music and other students; 21s. to 31s. weekly.—Mrs. Baker, 108, Elgin Avenue.

MARGATE.—Board-Residence; comfortable, homely; minute sea; moderate; stamp.—Miss Adams, 41, Athelstan Road, Cliftonville.

RESIDENTIAL Club for Ladies.—Cubicles from 18s. 6d. per week with board; rooms 25s.; also by the day.—Mrs. Campbell-Wilkinson, 49, Weymouth Street, Portland Place, London, W.

SUFFRAGETTES, Spend your Holidays with Miss Turner, W.S.P.U., Sea View, Victoria Road, Brighton, Nat. Tel. 1702. Rest Cure. Home-made bread and other comforts. Moderate terms.

TWO LADIES (gardening, poultry-farming) receive Paying Guests. Charming house; croquet; lovely moorland country; good sketching, cycling; open-air swimming-bath. Terms, 30s.—Leslie Carrington, Coughton Cottage, Verwood, Dorset.

VEGETARIAN BOARD-RESIDENCE.—Temporary or permanent. Homelike. Ladies and Gentlemen. Convenient situation. Room and breakfast from 3s.—Madame Veigle, 63 and 65, Hereford Road, Bayswater, W. This establishment is to be disposed of.

TO LET AND SOLD.

BRACING EAST COAST.—Exceptional opportunity. Yarmouth. House to let, furnished, for whole or part of summer. Suitable for large family, or two families of friends; 1½ minutes from sea. Large, airy rooms; 3 kitchens, 3 sitting-rooms, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, &c.—Apply Mrs. Thompson, Kippington Vicarage, Sevenoaks.

BROADSTAIRS.—Furnished, Detached House to let; 7 bed, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, &c.; gas; verandah, balcony; sea views; well-planted garden, 3 acres; tennis lawn; highest part of town.—T. 86, Ladbroke Grove, W.

BUSH HILL PARK.—4 min. Station. House, large garden, 30 feet frontage; well stocked fruit; lease 77 years, £225; cost of owner £250.—Apply, for photo, 602, High Road, Leytonstone.

CHARMING detached Cottages and Houses, built in historic park of 500 acres, adjoining magnificent golf course; 25 minutes from City; good gardens; prices from £275; easy instalments; rents from £32.—Write (or call) to-day for free illustrated descriptive booklet, House and Cottage Department, Gidea Park, Ltd., 33, Henrietta Street, Strand, W.C.

COTTAGE to Let, furnished, for month of May; lovely Welsh scenery; 3 bedrooms, sitting-room, kitchen, 30s., inclusive, weekly; linen.—Strickland, Glenside, Penmaenmawr, North Wales.

FURNISHED FLAT in High Street, Marylebone; three minutes from Baker Street Tube; two bedrooms, sitting-room, kitchen, bathroom. For particulars, order to view, apply, Edith Dunn, Wallasey, Cheshire.

HAYLING ISLAND.—Furnished Cottage by sea; 2 sitting, 5 bedrooms; long let, May to August, 2 guineas a week.—Apply, George Jones, Hayling Island.

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PETT, SUSSEX.—Comfortably furnished modern five-roomed cottage; garden; beautiful country; sea. Hastings five miles. Sanitation (outside) and water good.—Miss Row, Sunset.

TO LET.—Large Studio, furnished, living accommodation, attendance, South Kensington. Suit painter or musician. Moderate terms.—Apply L. VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4, Clement's Inn.

TO LET, two furnished Rooms in Chelsea Flat, with use of kitchen; gas rings; five minutes from South Kensington Tube; vegetarian preferred; 12s. weekly, or one room 6s.—Box 336, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4, Clement's Inn.

TO BE SOLD.—A bargain; South Kensington; contains three reception-rooms, ground floor, eight bedrooms, bath, good basement; electric light, gas, telephone; modern sanitation; near tubes and railway; suitable for nursing or guest home; might be let on lease.—Apply, L. C. B., VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4, Clement's Inn.

TWO (or three) good furnished rooms, use kitchen, &c., suitable for gentlemen going in for some country industry. Terms and particulars, La'imer, Fernlea, Torquay.

WANTED.

LADY requires 2 unfurnished rooms in quiet house, Hampstead district near Tube and bus; moderate.—M. E., VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

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GOD'S WORD TO WOMEN has never been a word of disapproval and suppression. The Bible encourages the development of woman and stands for her perfect equality with man, in spite of the teachings to the contrary. Do you wish to equip yourself for meeting the arguments of those who attempt, with sacrilegious hands, to throw the Bible in the way of woman's progress? Do you wish to know WHERE and HOW they misrepresent and misrepresent it? Send 7d. for 101 Questions Answered, a Woman's Catechism, prepared purposely to solve your perplexities.—Katharine Bushnell, Hawarden, Chester.

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THE HEALTH CENTRE, 122, Victoria Street, S.W.—Perfect health by natural means through vital electricity. Hours: 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays excepted.—Diagnosis by a Qualified Medical Man and by Mrs. Mary Davies. Enquiries relating to treatment answered free of charge. Enclose stamped envelope if written reply required.

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ADVERTISEMENTS inserted in all PUBLICATIONS, HOME and COLONIAL, at lowest office list rates.—S. THROWER, ADVERTISING AGENT, 20, IMPERIAL BUILDINGS, LUDGATE CIRCUS, LONDON, E.C. Established at this office nearly 30 years. Phone: 562 Central.

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SUFFRAGETTE seeks evening employment, secretarial or other light work; shorthand and typewriting; good references; terms moderate.—Write Miss Weaver, 21, Lady Margaret Road, N.W.

TWO LADIES, thoroughly experienced, driving, riding, management, &c., and entire care of horses, wish to be appointed as grooms. Experienced caravanning, catering and cooking, England and abroad.—Box 328, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4, Clement's Inn.

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WHY Keep Useless Jewellery? The large London market enables Robinson Brothers, of 5, Hampstead Road, London, W., and 127, Fenchurch Street, E.C., to give the best prices for Gold, Silver, Platinum, Diamonds, Pearls, Emeralds, Silver-Plate, Antiques, Old Teeth, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity; licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone: 2036 North. All parcels offer or cash by return of post.

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DRESSMAKER (Suffragette) with wide experience in cutting, fitting, and remodelling (best work only), visits ladies' residences. Highest testimonials. Terms, 7s. 6d. per day.—Apply Box 888, VOTES FOR WOMEN Office, 4, Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C.

HIGH - CLASS, inexpensive Dress-making; embroidery; dainty reform dresses, djibbas, children's smocks, &c.; cotton dresses, hand-embroidered, complete, from 21s.—Cecily Cook, 118, Church Lane, Tooting.

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MAISON Rémond, Ladies' Tailors, 11, Pollen Street, Hanover Square, W. Recommends his latest Paris styles in costumes, from £3 up. Remodelling of old costumes for moderate charges. Send a card for his Paris models and patterns.

MILLINERY.—To Ladies. Hats and Toques renovated from 5s. A smart selection of Spring Millinery now on show. Moderate prices. Miss Angus, at Roberts and Geen, 4, Conduit Street, W.

TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES.—Latest West End and Paris styles, from 3 guineas. Highly recommended by members of W.S.P.U. Patterns sent on application.—H. Nilsson, Ladies' Tailor, 14, Great Titchfield Street, Oxford Street, W. (near Waring's).

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ANTISEPTIC ELECTROLYSIS scientifically and effectually performed. It is the only permanent cure for Superfluous Hair. Highest medical references. Special terms to those engaged in teaching, clerical work, &c. Consultation free.—Miss Marion Lindsay, 35, Cambridge Place, Norfolk Square, W. Telephone: 337 Mayfair.

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HAIR DESTROYER.—James' Depilatory instantly removes superfluous hairs from the face, neck, or arms, without injury to the skin. Of best Chemists, or free from observation; post free on receipt of postal order for 1s. 3d., 2s. 9d., or 5s.—Mrs. V. James, 268, Caledonian Road, London, N.

HYGIENIC Hair Treatment. Scientific brushing and head massage; herbal shampoo. Entire care of ladies' hair undertaken. Moderate charges.—Marcelle, 14, Sloane Street, 5666 Victoria.

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A MODEL LAUNDRY.—Family work a speciality. Dainty fabrics of every description treated with special care. Flannels and silks washed in distilled water. No chemicals used. Best labour only employed. Prompt collections; prompt deliveries.—Bullens, Cressy House Laundry, Raynolds Road, Acton Green, W.

OLD OAK FARM LAUNDRY, 3, Bloomington Avenue, Shepherd's Bush, W. Tel.: 494 Chiswick. Brilliant testimonials from new customers:—

"Highbury, N., March 15, 1912. 'I am very pleased with way my washing is done.'"

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POULTRY and GAME BARGAINS.—All goods sent carriage paid throughout the Kingdom. Satisfaction guaranteed.

3 Delicious Spring Chickens..... 5s. 6d.
2 White Grouse and 6 Fat Quails..... 5s. 6d.
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2 Hazel Hens and 1 Roasting Fowl..... 5s. 6d.
1 Fat Wild Duck, 1 Hazel Hen, and 2 Fat Plovers..... 5s. 6d.

SHAW and SON, POULTRY SPECIALISTS, 80, MARCHMONT STREET, LONDON, W.C.

TRAVEL.

SWITZERLAND.—Doctor conducting a tour in June to Lucerne, Meiringen, Grindelwald, and Interlaken; particulars, personally or letter.—Dr. C. H. Aul, Norfolk House, Craven Park, Harlesden, N.W.

WOMEN'S International League and Travel Society. May Tours. Italian Cities, Lakes, Holland, Switzerland, Paris. Guest houses (seaside, inland). Moderate charges.—Particulars, stamp, 199, Victoria Street, London.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ANY AMOUNT of Children's, Ladies', and Gentlemen's Clothing bought. Utmost value immediately remitted.—Suffragette Dress Agency, 163, Battersea Rise, Wandsworth Common.

BECHSTEIN Upright Grand Piano; fine, long, great bargain; also Simplex Piano Player; bargains seldom met with.—11, Parkhurst Road, Holloway.

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"CULTO."—Japanese Magic Finger Nail Polish. "Culto" (1912 imports) is positively great. Just try a ls. crayon—pink and firm—larger than usual. If not "more than delighted," money returned. See 1912 stamped on end of Culto box.—Belvoir and Co., 1, New Southgate, N.

DRINK SALUTARIS. Health-giving Table Water. Distilled. Absolutely pure and free from all microbes; Aerated or Still. Unrivalled for gout and rheumatism. Ask your grocer or write Salutaris Company, 236, Fulham Road, London, S.W. (mentioning this advert.).

FISH.—The Quality Fish Supply Co. (Dept. F.), Aberdeen, will send by rail or post, carriage paid, Prepared for Cooking, 6lb (or larger quantities at proportionate prices), of the Finest, Freshest, Most Nutritious Fish, on receipt of postal order for 2s.

HAVE YOUR OWN BOOKPLATE.—We can design and engrave a bookplate to incorporate your own ideas, crest, motto, &c. Artistic and original work, from 17s. 6d. Marvellous value. Specimens sent free.—Henry K. Ward, 49, Gt. Portland Street, London, W.

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OLD FALSE TEETH.—We give highest possible prices for above. Offers made; if unaccepted, teeth returned. Dealers in old gold or silver in any form. Bankers' references. Straightforward dealing.—Woodfall and Company, Southampton.

REMNANTS! Genuine White Art Irish Linen. Big pieces, for Teacloths, Traycloths, D'Oyleys, &c. Only 2s. 6d. per bundle, postage 4d. Irish Linen Bargain Catalogue free. Write to-day.—Hultens, 167, Larc, Ireland.

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SILVERCREAM Silver Plate Polish.—Invaluable to Housekeepers. Perfectly harmless. No dust, no dirt, no evaporation. In tubes, 6d., post free 7d.—Silver Cream Co., 382, York Road, London, N., or of the Suffragist shops, chemists, &c.

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WINDOW FABRICS of Interest and Beauty.—Lace Curtains, Muslins, Casement Fabrics. Samples free. Consult our catalogue 27; most important issued. Inexpensive and pleasing suggestions for Window Draperies. Write to-day.—Sam. Peach and Sons, The Looms, Nottingham.